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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 addition, an express breakfast table was set up Tuesday morning outside of Starbucks in the second-floor lobby of the Student Union.

Celebrating International Women's Day:

The Duke honors women of Duquesne
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THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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The struggle for moral vaccines



Griffin Sendek | Multimedia Editor

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.

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.

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 toward 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

see COVID— page 2

POLICE BRIEFS

Here are the crimes reported from **March 1 to March 8.**

On **March 2**, a student reported her vehicle was damaged when it was parked unattended on Vickroy Street.

On **March 3**, an RD in Towers discovered a student smoking marijuana in a dorm room. That student was referred to the office of student conduct.

Also on **March 3**, it was reported that an unidentified white male committed an invasion of privacy in the 8th floor women's bathroom in St. Martin Hall. The male used a blue cell phone camera to photograph female residents inside the bathroom stalls and in the shower. The actor fled prior to arrival of police. This suspect was described as wearing black pants and white socks with black "slide" style sandals; the socks may be "Puma" brand. It is presumed that the suspect could be a resident student.

Duquesne University Public Safety (DUPS) assistant chief Michael Sippey said that DUPS is continuing to investigate the crime and "will do so until all leads have been exhausted." He asked that if you know the identity of this person, have any helpful information or recognize any suspicious behaviors of an individual occurring around 9:15 p.m. March 3, please call 412-396-6002 or e-mail publicsafety@duq.edu.

COVID-19

NUMBERS

SCAN HERE FOR
COVID-19 DATA



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 hammondc@duq.edu

Catholic Bishops describe getting vaccine as "act of charity" and instruct Catholics to receive it

from COVID— page 1

country that urged parishioners to avoid the Johnson & Johnson vaccine -- was misleading.

"I think that by playing up the possibility of a controversy, the media was irresponsible because it's risking lives," he said. "You had to read through the whole headline to get to the one qualifier. I would just hate to think of someone who was trying to protect themselves and ultimately canceled their vaccine. That would've been horrible. It's much better to be clearer in headlines. Some people only go by headlines."

As a Spiritan campus, Duquesne explains in their mission statement that they are highly concerned with moral and spiritual values, but Christy and the Campus Ministry office assure students that no matter which vaccine is offered, it is acceptable to receive.

Although not used in the production of the vaccine, the cell lines of aborted fetuses were used in the testing of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, which makes them morally imperfect, as well, according to the church.

"We want to make sure that everyone knows that the clear moral imperative is to receive the first vaccine available to

them," Christy said. "In the most ideal world, you have a perfectly ethically sourced vaccine, but we live in this imperfect world. If an untainted vaccine were available, you would choose that, but you have an obligation in the absence of the morally superior option to receive the first available."

To make sure students are aware, Christy and the rest of Campus Ministry plan to use their website, social media and gatherings to preach that any vaccine the university is given is acceptable to receive, and faithful students themselves have been joining in on the conversation.

"I'm a nondenominational Christian, which is a little bit different," said freshman Ashley Parry. "But through this whole COVID thing, the main thing is to love your neighbor and look out for the people around you. Whether or not you believe in masks or vaccines, you should help yourself and your neighbor. I don't want to get the vaccine to help those who need it get it before me, but also want to get it to protect others. No matter what you choose, you love everyone regardless."

As an extra step, however, the university has requested to distribute the Moderna vaccine rather than the Johnson & John-



GRIFFIN SENDEK | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Despite conflicting reports, the USCCB encourages all Catholics to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, even though all currently approved vaccines in the U.S. were tested and produced in manners associated with aborted fetuses.

son and Pfizer vaccines, but still do not know which one they will be receiving officially.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has caused disease-related suffering globally at a massively historic scale," said Vice President of Marketing and Communications, Gabe Welsch. "World-wide mobilization has been required, sustained over more than a year, even to begin to control the damage. For that reason, it is a moral imperative to seek vaccination in

order to protect personal health and to alleviate the global suffering the pandemic has caused. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has supported individuals getting vaccinated, including using the Johnson & Johnson vaccine."

A look at Shank's mandatory diversity training

KELLEN STEPLER
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 Di-

versity, 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 non-violent 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.



GRIFFIN SENDEK | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Shank, a former professor in the school of education, must complete diversity training.

Celebrating International Women's Day: The Women of The Bluff

KATIA FAROUN
features editor

On Monday, celebrations rang out across the world (and social media) in honor of International Women's Day. Established in 1911, this worldwide holiday celebrates the cultural, social, economic and political achievements of women. This year featured the unique theme "Choose to Challenge," a rallying cry for women to uplift each other and continue to raise the bar for all members of society.

This week, *The Duke* honors three of the iconic women whose leadership and presence serve as examples of female excellence across campus.

Caron Daley



COURTESY OF CARON DALEY

Being a leader is part of Caron Daley's DNA. Coming from generations of music educators, including her mother and grandmother, she was taught from the start about the importance of female leadership.

Now, as the director of choral activities at the Mary Pappert School of Music and one of the select few female choir conductors out there, Daley has the opportunity to show and teach others the strength and beauty of being a female leader.

For Daley, feminism is about more than equality — it's about equity and granting equal access to women all across the playing field.

"Equity, of course, referring to how do we level the playing field, how do we get women access to things, how do we prioritize women so that they can have better access to things," Daley said.

And it's rooted in her work. Daley is a firm believer in the power of community and knows how necessary encouragement from mentors is for young students. By creating programs that gather women educators and students in the music field and being a mentor herself, Daley is able to

channel what she's learned from her 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 is it that women do really well, and let's let that be celebrated."

Patricia Patterson



KATIA FAROUN | FEATURES EDITOR

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 the help of her aunt, Patterson never would have applied for her position at Duquesne, and her grandmother's challenging experiences and the wisdom that comes from being 105 years old continue to inspire her daily.

"She's a strong woman from it, and I want to believe I'm a strong woman too," Patterson said.

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, Carrissa Haslam, Capri Scarcelli, Kelsey Burtner and Paula Reed Ward for making this publication possible.

Kristine Blair

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 McNulty 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 women or 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.



COURTESY OF KRISTINE BLAIR

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

MICHELLE OBAMA

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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Corrections/clarifications

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

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COURTESY OF FLICKR

After making it through Congress, the next COVID-19 relief bill now sits on President Biden's desk awaiting his signature.

Additional stimulus is necessary to achieve a full economic recovery

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 slowly 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 considerable portion of funds to the most vulnerable social groups and communities



NOAH WILBUR
opinions editor

struggling to get back on track and make ends meet. In contrast, the majority of funds from the Cares Act was distributed to small businesses and major corporations in order to spark the economy and keep unemployment at bay.

Opponents of the next relief package question whether or not this much stimulus is necessary after nearly \$3 trillion in emergency funding since the arrival of COVID-19. Not to mention, they also point

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, as 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 down 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.

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., 93.7 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 last Friday alone.

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 admittedly 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 long-awaited return to normalcy. Referencing Bloomberg's Vaccine Tracker, with the latest vaccination rate of 2,168,688 doses per day on average, it would take approximately 6 months to vaccinate 75% of the U.S. population with a vaccine requiring two-doses.

As we move closer towards the light at the end of the tunnel, much uncertainty remains ahead as we all work together to navigate this complex and confusing reality known as COVID-19. That being said, the U.S. must continue to improve the manufacturing and distribution of vaccines as the only way to guide this great nation to total recovery is to first, whether we like it or not, achieve herd immunity.

Can we start taking serious things seriously again?

TROY SMAJDA
staff columnist

Let me start this hopefully inspiring diatribe by prefacing that I consider myself a goofy person. I am the president of the Duquesne Comedy Club, and there is nothing I enjoy more than a good joke and taking life very un-seriously.

Now, that mostly works because I think (or at least blindly hope) that I have a decent moral 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 confront: 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-wagging self. The most obvious issue I'm thinking of is politics. Today, politics is some untouchable, undiscussable leper that we all avoid publicly and consume voraciously privately, leaving only the most trivial things as serious conversation topics.

But why? It's all anyone absorbs on their phones all day, so why all the beating around the bush? Why is this all-important 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-assuring memes that pacify us to feel quaint and distanced from our deeply 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.

Not 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 "debate" by the Republican party. Most people take it very seriously, but to some people, it's not real — a ruse, a meme. How can that be? How can something so objectively real and serious become such an arguable 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 15-hour shift. It seems quite serious to her, and to write it off as some fluke, some fad, 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 supposed to share has led to real repercussions, the terrorist attack on the Capitol being the most obvious example.

I could go on all day about serious issues that are subjugated to meme material or simply written off such as the pandemic 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-serious and jaded direction before someone turns around and asks why we're heading in that direction 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-



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

Meme culture is leading people to overlook the serious issues plaguing our society. ing meme culture as a pacifier.

I know I can't solve all of society's problems with some sincere words, but I think that's part of the problem. Why can't sincere words fix all this? Maybe because it's very easy to make fun of what I'm saying, and that is at the core of our problems: We can now turn anything sincere into an ironic meme and laugh at it from a distance. The most basic problems are constantly right on our feeds and instead we look right over top of them at memes ruining the seriousness of real issues.

I don't have any good solutions to this problem, but we need to start by confronting the small problems. Hold the door for everyone, be genuine, don't be so sarcastic all the time; instead of looking to roast or embarrass or prove a point, seek to inform and to teach and to guide.

I will close with the advice of Charlie Chaplin at the end of *The Great Dictator*: "We think too much and feel too little. More than machinery we need humanity. More than cleverness we need kindness and gentleness."

Thrift shopping: Not a hobby, but rather a lifestyle

SARAH DUJORDAN
staff columnist

I hate going to the mall or retail stores. Going to a thrift store, though, is different. At times, I feel like a pirate looking for treasure. I never know what surprises I will stumble upon.

The aroma of a thrift store is always potent, as they never fail to smell like your grandparents' attic. I often spend three to four hours looking through the racks of clothing. My arm is always sore once I leave.

My mom always took us thrift shopping. So, it is a large reminder of my childhood.

Picking out my outfit prior to the next day of school was a constant routine of mine. Waking up early to "perfect" my outfit for another day of elementary school in the morning remained a part of the cycle as well; scanning my closet with the same intensity of someone with laser vision, trying to decide what outfit would make me look the best.

Always putting on my thrifted components, others never had an issue consistently taking the opportunity to negatively com-

ment on the concept.

I never took offense to comments from anyone because thrift shopping was "normal" to me. My mom always said, "If people looked hard enough, they could find those brands at the thrift store. You are getting the same thing at a much cheaper price."

Now at 20 years old, that motto continues to stay with me. I have learned thrift shopping is a therapeutic experience for me, along with a beneficial one.

Thrift shopping has transformed from benefiting people struggling economically to now being a quirky trend. Current fashion trends have seen the 1960s-90s making their way back into teenagers' lives. Once dated trends such as overalls, chunky sweaters and shoes, high-waisted jeans and jean jackets are taking over the fashion industry.

What better place to get clothes of those decades than a store that has items donated by people who experienced those trends first-hand?

Thrift shopping is not just economically friendly, but environmentally. With global cli-

mate rights being at the forefront of conversation recently, interest in sustainable options have peaked — the obvious ones being a reduction in plastic and water waste, as well as some choosing a meat-free lifestyle.

Many often forget that thrift shopping is the original form of shopping sustainably. Sustainable clothing can be expensive, so knowing there are alternative options out there helps those on a budget — especially when those people on a budget are usually college students.

Thrift shopping is considered recycled clothing, making it extremely environmentally-friendly. It's doing your part in saving the world, while saving your bank account.

Despite many positives, there have been numerous downsides to the recent gentrification of thrift shopping. Others depend on this method of acquiring winter coats, shoes or clothing for their kids and themselves just to survive. Many plus-sized women have also described having a lack of options at the thrift store.

Local thrift stores have also



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

Thrift shopping is disrupting traditional retailers as its popularity grows in the U.S.

acknowledged the rise in this trend. With that, shoppers have also seen a rise in prices. As a child, I remember a shirt costing no more than \$2; now, they can go for upwards of \$7. I hope stores recognize that while the popularity in thrifting is exciting, some still rely on cheap prices to obtain everyday, needed objects.

I am privileged enough that deciding to get my clothes at a thrift store is a choice and

not a necessity. Keeping this in mind, shoppers still can — and should be — ethical, while saving money by thrifting. Remembering to not purchase from the kid's section, the winter coats, shoes or plus-sized section unless absolutely vital.

From the age of 7 to now 20, thrift shopping has found a way to weave itself into a hobby of mine. But who doesn't love a hobby that won't bust their budget?

DU study: COVID disproportionately affects segregated areas

EMILY AMBERY
staff writer

A 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 racial- and socioeconomically segregated neighborhoods, we can try to predict the mortality rate of COVID-19,” Khanijahani said. “Both of these vari-

ables 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 other factors that could potentially 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



GRIFFIN SENDEK / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Segregated neighborhoods, like Pittsburgh's Hill District, were found to be associated with higher COVID-19 mortality rates.

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 spe-

cifically 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 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.



Lecture series brings award-winning producers to Duquesne

PEYTON HARRIS
staff contributor

This week at Duquesne, the Mary Papert 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 will be 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 as 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



GRIFFIN SENDEK / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

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

making it happen.”

From March 10 through April 12, renowned musicians, producers and sound engineers Elliot Scheiner, Peter Asher, Laurence Juber, Alan Parsons and Nishta Kumar will be speaking to students about their own experiences throughout their careers, and providing insight into how students can further themselves in the ever-expanding field of music.

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 works. 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,” Kitka said. “Whether in a lecture atmosphere or an actual project, 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



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS
Standout freshman guard Megan McConnell handles the ball against Dayton Jan. 3.

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't beat 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 71-63 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



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Duquesne sophomore Amaya Hamilton drives to the rim against Ohio State on Nov. 29. The Dukes fell to the Top 25-ranked Buckeyes, 82-47, in their first game of the 2020-21 season. After stumbling to a 1-3 non-league record, the Dukes struggled to gain traction in a season marred by injuries and COVID-19 layoffs. Hamilton, who plays the third-most minutes on the team (27.3 per game), hopes to extend her team's season Thursday morning against La Salle in the A-10's second round.

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!

Results under Dambrot haven't been grand yet, but they will be

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 return to that initial ride.

Hip-hop megastar Drake graduated from high school at age 26 after dropping out of school as a teen to pursue professional opportunities. At his commencement speech at Toronto's Jarvis Collegiate Institute in 2012, Drake addressed a crowd full of fellow graduates, saying: "Sometimes it's the journey that teaches you a lot about your destination. And sometimes when you get there, you'll look back and you'll realize that you wish you 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

Dukes last played in the NCAA tournament.

The Atlantic 10 began play in 1976 as the Eastern Athletic Association, but was popularly known then as the Eastern 8. Men's basketball was initially 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 whipped his head around to roar, "We're almost there," for the 902nd time.

There might be a few more mile markers to go, but Dambrot'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.

Duquesne 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 Cooper Fieldhouse is finally complete and several 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

ADAM LINDNER
sports editor

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:

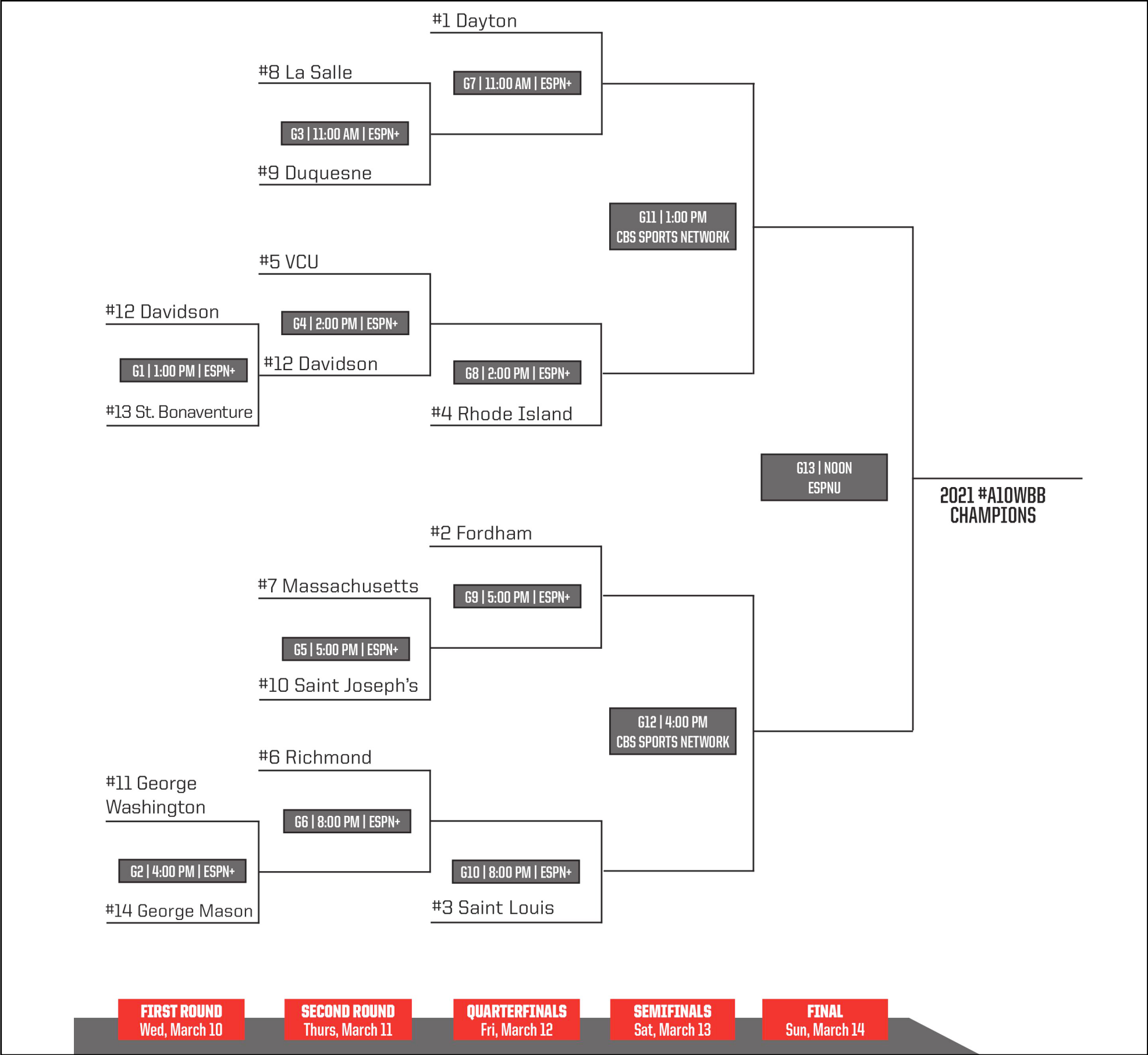
Duquesne began its four-game spring football schedule with a win over Sacred Heart, 30-27, on Saturday at Arthur J. Rooney Field.
Joe Mischler, a transfer from Ohio, impressed in his debut at quarterback. The signal-caller accounted for 294 yards of

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:	Across:
1. Crawford	2. Bodden
2. Buffalo	4. Merrimack
3. Hines	5. Towson
5. TCU	6. Buechel
6. Bryant	8. Gattuso
7. Kuntz	

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 audiences.

"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 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," Diamond-Cates said in an interview with People magazine.

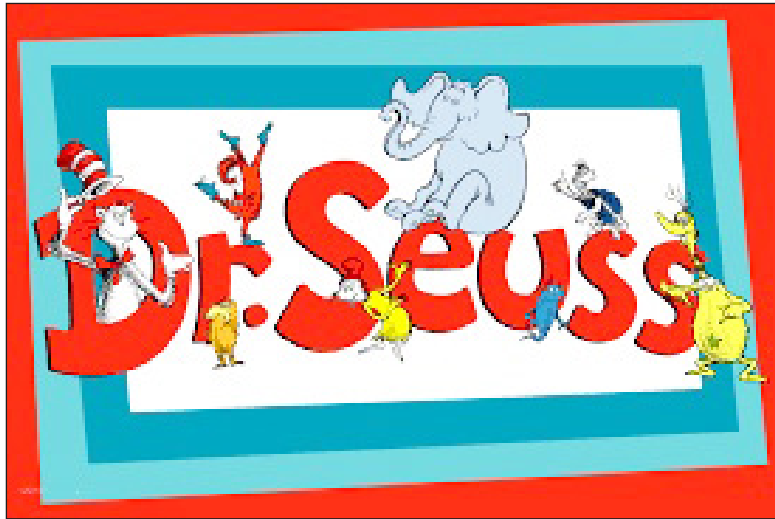
With some of his earliest works being written pre-WWII, Dr. Seuss has stereotypically depicted ethnic characteristics, holding a much more harsh connotation in the 21st century. This includes characters of African descent being illustrated with grass skirts and messy hair in "If I Ran the Zoo," as well 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 reading programs. These things aren't even racist," Trump Jr. said. "There's no place they won't go."



COURTESY OF PIXY.ORG

Writing over 60 children's books, some of Dr. Seuss' work is being reconsidered.

Junior philosophy major Rafael Paul said he was at first surprised by this recent turn of events, but then understood why the decision was made.

"It's crazy to think that something so widely accepted like Dr. Seuss books are being cancelled," Paul said. "Like many, I was confused at this decision, but after seeing the [illustration] images in question I don't see harm in this."

Junior economics major Jess Schmitz said she sees it as "society moving on from the past."

"The books that are being pulled were not popular books, and most people who got mad probably haven't heard of or read them," Schmitz said. "It felt like social media blew up a problem that wouldn't have even made headlines 20 years ago ... I think a lot of people get so sucked in they forget that this decision doesn't really mean anything."

Stopping publication isn't something that is uncommon in the literature world, either.

Authors will add and remove their work as they see fit, depending on what resonates with audiences. This does not mean the books are banned indefinitely, but merely that further publication of the works will come to a halt.

In the past week, Amazon sent Dr. Seuss' most famous works to the top of the charts, becoming the website's best-selling author.

Though this recent resurgence has brought attention to Seuss' work as a whole, Paul said that we still have to challenge the political 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.

WEEK'S EVENTS

DPC DUNite: Paint Monkey
Friday, March 12 @ 9 p.m.

Stop by the Union NiteSpot for a chance to paint! Supplies are limited.

St. Patrick's Day Party
Saturday, March 13 @ 7 p.m.

Join DPC in the Union for Patty's-inspired food, games and fun!

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 the first solo release since 2016.

Revolucion
Selena Gomez
Friday, March 12

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

CAPRI'S 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 with me on that one and that's kind of the problem.

All of the tent spaces are filled up, and the Mellon patio, 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 tables on some empty lawns for a fair chance at enjoying the outdoors.

— Capri Scarcelli

HOROSCOPES



Pisces

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



Aries

It is time to immerse yourself in deep witchcraft.



Taurus

I heard if you walk around with a giant bag of granola you can land yourself a date ASAP.



Gemini

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



Cancer

Simon says... text your ex. Wait what?



Leo

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



Virgo

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



Libra

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



Scorpio

It's too early to open the pool Scorpio, don't get any funny ideas.



Sagittarius

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



Capricorn

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



Aquarius

You're a mediocre man, Charlie Brown!

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+ after being postponed from its original release date of June 20. In place of original director Stephen Hillenburg, best friend and writer of the show Tim Hill fulfilled his duties in bringing the classic franchise's characters to life in a whole new way.

Before his death from ALS in November 2018, Hillenburg's intentions were set on a third *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 adamant 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, an 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 forum, NickALive. "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 per-

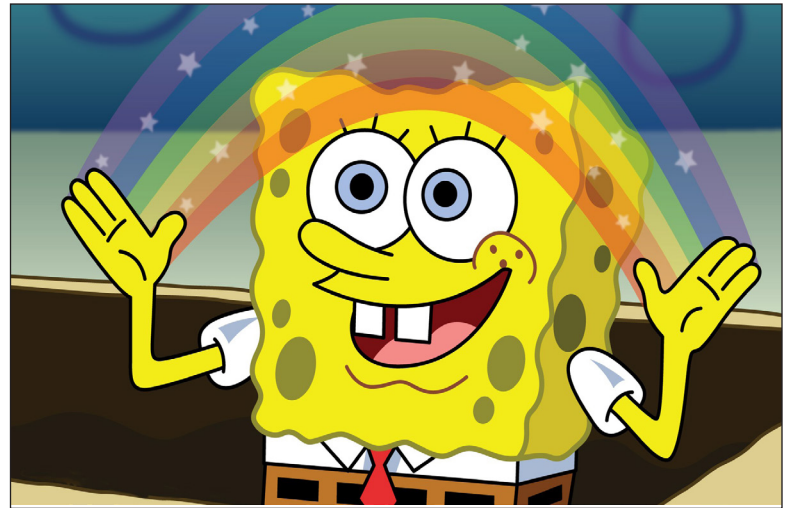
sonal about it, which goes beyond just having a great story and memorable characters."

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 Dog, Awkwafina and Tiffany Haddish 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 Koral: *Spongebob's* Under Years." Within



COURTESY OF PIXY.ORG

Spongebob comes back to the limelight with a new feature film and spin-off show.

the movie, cameos from "Kamp Koral" 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 all 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 Koral* 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 majority of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU.)

The story of *WandaVision*, for the most part, stopped moving forward after episode 7, and as the credits rolled for episode 8, it was obvious there wasn't enough time left to

bring everything established to a satisfying conclusion.

The finale takes place exactly where the previous episode left off. No more sitcom pastiche, no changing decades as it gets straight to the point with a fight between Wanda and the witch, Agatha Harkness.

With the episodes so far being light on the action, this sudden climatic shift felt somewhat out of place for *WandaVision*, a change that wasn't entirely needed. The action of that episode is hampered by the fact unlike many 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 reveal of her evil witch 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.



COURTESY OF DISNEY

WandaVision's action-packed finale with Agatha ends in a disappointing simmer.

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 Wanda's hex around Westview finally crumbles and Vision fades back into nothingness.

When *WandaVision* began, it was different from anything else Marvel had ever done, and ended following the traditional MCU af-

fair, 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 its own 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 finale, disappointing as it may be, in no way ruins the show. *WandaVision* remains well worth a watch and has me waiting in excitement for the next installment of Wanda's story.

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



COURTESY OF DISNEY

Wanda and Vision spend their last few moments together before the episode's end.

Happy Saint Patrick's Day!  @DU_Cares

Under 21? 21 or Over?

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

Section 6308 of PA Crimes Code + Duquesne University Student Conduct Policy

Possible university sanctions:

1st violation- \$100

2nd violation- \$150

3rd violation- \$200

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

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.

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

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 Klucsevsek (klucsevsekk@duq.edu), by March 10th, 2021. Interviews will take place Friday March 26th.

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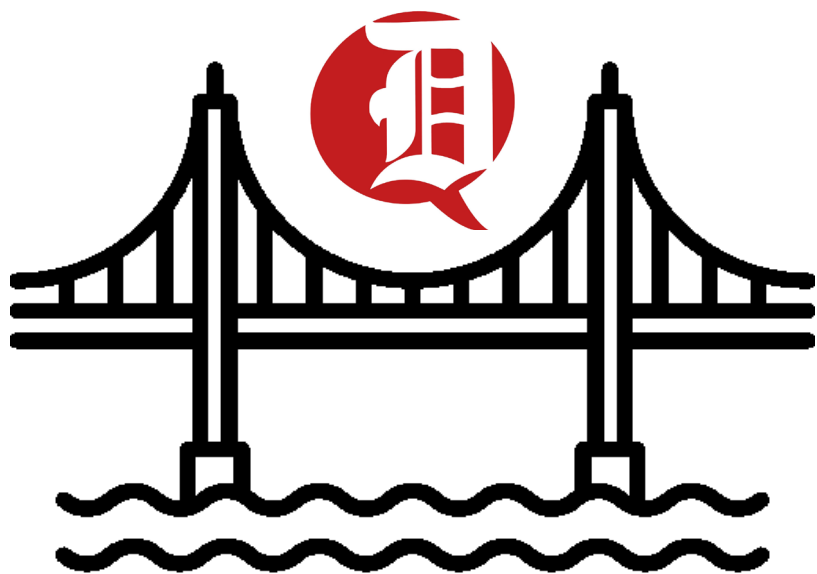
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