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March 2021

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Hair & Makeup

By Griffin Sendek

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or what feels like forever now, there's been no need to worry about putting makeup on the bottom half of the face. With the increased rollout of vaccines and the glimmer of life returning to normal, unfortunately, the days of half-done makeup are coming to an end. In case your hair and makeup skills have faltered over the past year or you're looking to freshen up your new look for the new season, follow these helpful tips.

Contour & Highlight

A crucially important step to upping your makeup game for the spring is applying contour and highlight. It can be tricky to perfect, but if you've been putting off learning how



to properly highlight and contour, what better time than now where a mask will hide any mishaps or improper blending. When it comes to blending, the goal is to avoid any and all harsh lines. The contour needs to be seamless to create a natural look.

Blush

When picking a blush, you want the shade that matches the undertones of your skin. It's far more important to pick a blush that adequately complements the tone and texture of your skin before seeking your favorite color. Different shades of blush will all have different subtle effects, so don't be afraid to experiment. Combing your first layer of blush a slightly darker shade can help brighten the cheeks and better accentuate the rose glow of the first shade.

The texture of the makeup itself is incredibly important — keep in mind how two products might mix on your skin.

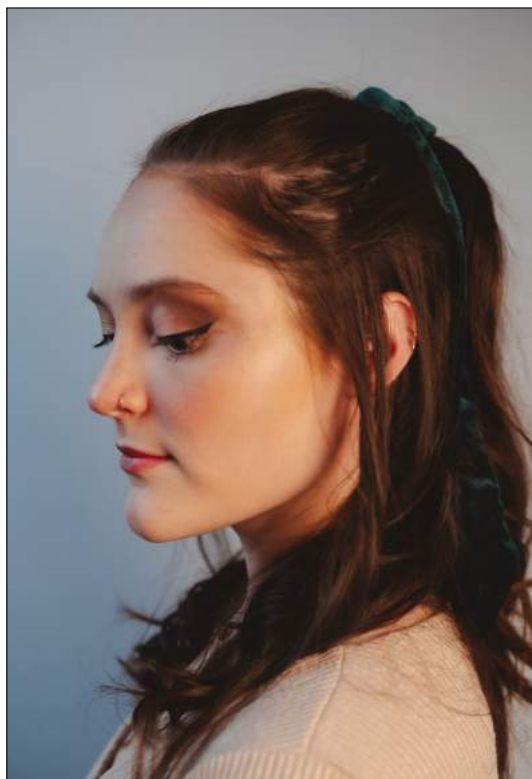
For example, if a liquid foundation or tinted moisturizer is your go-to, try adopting a cream blush as opposed to powdered. Powdered blush over liquid foundation can be difficult to properly blend and can end up looking patchy. However, if powdered is your only option, make sure to apply a base of setting powder before adding the blush.

Apply with a brush to the apples of the cheeks and blend together evenly with the foundation, then contour and highlight all the way to the hairline by the ears to achieve a seamless natural flush.

Avoid overapplying. The goal is some natural rosiness, not to look in a constant state of immense embarrassment.

Lips

Spring is the time to bring out the warm and light colors. When it comes to lipsticks and gloss, a deep red or darker mattes might be perfect for the dead of winter, but for the calmer tenor of springtime, aim for lighter shades to match — pinks, peaches and neutral tones are perfect for the season and pair well with light makeup looks.



Hot tip:

Apply a light layer of lipstick and blot with a tissue before administering a second thicker coat. This will help even out the color on the lips. To give your lips an extra pop, dust your cupid's bow with a light layer of highlight.

Eyes



The sun is finally out and here to stay, so why not match its energy and bring on the gold? Doing a gold or shimmery eyeshadow not only brings out the eyes, but is brilliantly brought to life the moment sunshine peeks through the clouds.

If you're doing winged eyeliner and they aren't long enough to take flight, you're doing it wrong. Once you start the wings commit, go big or go home.

Thick and voluminous lashes are wonderful, but aren't always ideal for every season. Light and feathery lashes are wonderful for the springtime. Go a little easy on the mascara and wing the outer corners for the lighter, wispy look.

Hair

The season of spring is all about transition, as the snow begins to melt and sun once again peaks from behind the clouds.

In the colder months, more time is spent inside away from wind and motion where a more styled hairdo can be expected to remain for the most part intact. For the spring, think of ways to do your hair that can stand up to a little bit of abuse and still look good as it begins to fall out. A half-up, half-down look is extremely simple to do, and can be styled with a scrunchy that complements the rest of the outfit and remains a low maintenance look.

When all else fails a ponytail is your best friend. Whether it's a sleek high pony or low and messy, a ponytail will always work with any spring look.



Models:
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Rachel Parshall,
Sofia Robinson
Photography by Griffin Sendek

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Duq alum and *Duke* editorialist leads panel on race and religion

EMILY AMBERY
staff writer

As the country continues to grapple with its uncomfortable relationship with racism and the ongoing call for racial justice, the Consortium for Christian Muslim Dialogue and the Duquesne Interfaith Student Organization deepened the dialogue with a discussion of religion's role in racial equity. The virtual panel, titled *Racial Equity & Religions*, took place over Zoom on March 18.

The event began with keynote speaker George Yancy, a Samuel Candler Dobbs professor of philosophy from Emory University. Yancy, a Duquesne 2005 Ph.D. recipient, garnered attention just a few short weeks ago when *The Duke* published his "Open Letter to Black Students at Duquesne University." To initiate the discussion, Yancy spoke about whiteness and its implication on religion and racism in America.

"If Black lives really mattered to white people, and especially religious white people, I desire to see

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Duquesne administration announces tentative plans for fall 2021 semester

see *UPDATE*— page 3

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Travel restrictions ease, students contemplate COVID Easter break



GRIFFIN SENDEK | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

As states across the country ease travel restrictions and ramp up vaccination distribution, the final days of the pandemic are seemingly on the horizon. This week, Duquesne administration noted Pennsylvania's change in travel restrictions and elaborated on how these changes will effect student returning home for Easter.

ZOE STRATOS
staff writer

COVID-19 policies are changing over the Easter weekend, and with Gov. Tom Wolf's recent loosening travel restrictions, Duquesne students are weighing their options of going home for the holiday.

On March 1, the Pennsylvania issues revised COVID-19 travel and occupancy guidelines, with the biggest being the elimination of travel restrictions. This means that people who travel in and out of Pennsylvania no longer need to quarantine, or provide a negative COVID-19 test result upon their return to the state. With this, the state still advises caution and the continued wearing of face masks.

"Pennsylvania is taking a measured approach to revising or lifting mitigation orders," Gov. Wolf said. "The reason we are seeing cases drop can be attributed, in part, to people fol-

lowing the mitigation efforts we have in place. Mask-wearing, social distancing and hand hygiene are making a difference and need to continue even as we see more and more people fully vaccinated. We need to balance protecting public health with leading the state to a robust economic recovery. We are lifting mitigation efforts only when we believe it is safe to do so."

On March 15, state the government announced that some of the targeted restrictions placed on restaurants and other businesses will be lifted effective April 4 — Easter weekend.

With both announcements in mind, the university sent an email to students on March 16 regarding their plans for Easter weekend. Although the university has no control over students' travel plans, they have put in place policies for students to follow when leaving and upon returning from their breaks.

"First, the university strongly

suggests that students avoid traveling for the holiday," said vice president of marketing and communications Gabe Welsch.

Welsch also encouraged students to utilize the free, on-campus testing through SONA before returning home, if they are concerned about bringing the virus home.

"Because the incubation period of the virus is about 4 to 5 days, scheduling a test for 4-5 days after return is optimal. Until then, students are reminded that voluntary self-isolation is important, minimizing contact with others and continuing to monitor daily symptom checker until tests confirm that they do not have COVID-19," Welsch said.

Upon return, Health Services will have times available starting April 5 to schedule for a COVID-19 test.

As for students staying on campus as the university recommends, a few places on campus will remain open for student use.

For those staying, it will be similar to years past. The Incline and Campus Market will be open for dining options, and Sunday will feature a holiday themed menu at The Incline. The Power Center will also be open, but closed only on Easter Sunday.

Campus Ministry will hold Mass on Holy Thursday at 7 p.m., and Easter Sunday at 11 a.m. A prayer service will also be held at noon on Good Friday — all while honoring the campus safety guidelines and capacity limits.

One student staying in Pittsburgh for Easter break is junior Ailis Roose.

Roose is staying for multiple reasons extra hours at work being one of them. Roose works as a desk aid in St. Martin's Residence Hall on campus.

"I guess it's kind of hard for me to justify having an Easter break

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POLICE BRIEFS

Here are the crimes reported from **March 15 to March 22.**

On **March 17**, an employee in Mellon Hall received multiple voicemail messages from an unknown caller.

On **March 18**, an employee reported that money left in a folder from Dec. 10, 2020, in the Literature Dept. is no longer there.

Also on **March 18**, students in St. Ann's Hall possessed a small amount of marijuana and liquor. Both students were referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

On **March 19**, campus police responded to a call of a "suspicious male" sitting in on an exam in a lecture hall. The male was stopped and identified as a former student. A defiant trespass warning was issued, and summary charges filed, for Christian Ross of Pittsburgh.

Also on **March 20**, Duquesne Police received a call for a suspicious person in the School of Music. When officers arrived on the scene, they discovered a white male – Christian Ross of Pittsburgh – in a basement practice room playing the piano. Ross is a former student, but he was not authorized to be in the School of Music. Ross was arrested, charged with criminal trespass and taken to the Allegheny County Jail.

Also on **March 20**, a student in Towers was found intoxicated by Residence Life. The case was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Also on **March 20**, a student was reported to be intoxicated in Assumption Hall. That student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

On **March 21**, two Duquesne resident students were caught with a small amount of marijuana and paraphernalia. A non-traffic citation was issued to a student for a second offense. Six remaining students were referred to the Office of Student Conduct for a Code of Conduct violation.

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George Yancy serves as keynote speaker for Duq's virtual panel *Religion & Racial Equity*

from EQUITY— page 2

gious white people, I desire to see white rage against itself, its own white power and privilege and its complicity with white supremacy," Yancy said. "I would like to see their white rage overflow in the streets of this nation shouting, 'My whiteness is a lie.'"

After Yancy's address, each panelist followed with a presentation on their own religion and its teachings on race and role in racism.

The first panelist was Sangeeta Chakravorty. She presented her perspective on racial equity as it relates to her religion, Hinduism. Chakravorty held a 30-second moment of silence for those who have died at the hands of injustice.

"Intolerance towards the so-called 'Other' is extremely painful, and does not conform to the religious tenets Hinduism recommends," Chakravorty said.

Next, Rona Kaufman Kitchen gave a presentation on the relationship between Judaism and race. Kitchen presented four ways of looking at racial equity in Judaism: Jewish teachings, Jewish history, intra-community racial equity in the American Jewry and the role of Judaism in anti-Black racism in America.

Following Kitchen, Kamal Shlbei gave a presentation on how Islam views and values equality, especially when it comes to race. Shlbei provided insight to Islamic teachings on human dignity and its role in promoting and advocating for racial equity.

Anna Floerke Scheid followed with the Christian perspective on



GRIFFIN SENDEK | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

In February, Duquesne Ph.D. recipient George Yancy published an "Open Letter to Black Students at Duquesne." This week, he led a virtual panel on the role various religions play in the fight for racial equity and equality. Yancy and all the respective panelists commented on the importance of religions calling for equity.

equity and race. Scheid discussed the history of Christianity in America and the Civil Rights Movement. Scheid acknowledged the work Christianity has to continue doing with regard to racial justice and commented on the progress Christianity has made thus far in a movement that is anti-racist.

Next, Will Adams gave a presentation on racial equity with the Buddhist perspective. Adams discussed the delusion of separation of self versus other. Buddhism recognizes differences between people but realizes that people are never separate from each other.

The last panelist, Jesse Washington, represented the Bahá'í Faith. Washington spoke on racial equality and equity and their importance to the Bahá'í Faith.

"The Bahá'í Faith recognizes that racial equality is a fundamen-

tal need of this time, and without it, the promises of all of our religions cannot be fulfilled," Washington said.

The event concluded with questions for the panelists from the audience. Some of the questions touched on ways college students specifically can raise awareness of solidarity and allyship in their own religious communities.

"I am hopeful we are moving in a direction that is important that we are able to see how differently [minorities] are treated in America and recognizing we have a responsibility in America to be partners with other minorities who are experiencing really severe racism in the United States," Kitchen said.

An audio recording is available on the Consortium for Christian Muslim Dialogue website for those who missed the live event.

Update: Fall 2021 Plans

BAYLEE MARTIN

staff writer

Duquesne has announced its official plan for full on-campus learning and regular student life operations to return in the fall 2021 semester.

According to an email sent to all students Monday, March 22, the safety precautions put in place over the last year, and those that will be in effect over this coming summer semester at the university will be enough to bring students back to campus.

"Due to the success of present safety measures – including distancing, masking and hygiene practices – as well as the steady increasing vaccination rates and decline in infections and hospitalizations, the University's health professionals and local health authorities project that a safe return to in-person classes and activities is possible," the email said.

HyFlex classroom technologies have been a successful implementation in Duquesne's preparations for remote and asynchronous instruction, so some courses in the fall semester will still offer these options in variation for students.

Duquesne Provost David Dausey said in the announcement that this is an exciting time to bring back the old, while ringing in the new.

"We learned a great deal and made some innovations during the time when we had to be remote, and we will keep some of what we learned for future classes," Dausey said. "We won't just be returning to business as usual—we'll be returning to something like a new-and-improved business as usual."

Although academics are the university's main priority, aspects of student life and operations are just as important in returning to hopeful normalcy in the fall. Athletics in the newly finished UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse will hold events with in-person audiences at limited capacity, and outdoor dining options will remain due to their popularity among students.

Jess Schmitz, a sophomore political science major said she was "for it."

"All adults in the U.S. will be eligible for the vaccine by May, so by the time we come back to campus, the only people who won't have it are the ones who don't want it," Schmitz said.

Sophomore philosophy major Noah Madden said that the email was like the light at the end of the tunnel.

"When I read the email that the university sent, it made me feel like that there truly is a light at the end of the tunnel if they believe that we can return to the normal student life. I am nervous to see how it turns out, but only time can tell what will happen," Madden said.

Additional information will be provided to students in the future.

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COVID-19 NUMBERS

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

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

As of March 18-March 22, there were 10 positive tests at Duquesne out of the 1,250 tests conducted.

SCAN HERE FOR
COVID-19 DATA



Second Easter during the pandemic: navigating travel plans as restrictions ease

from **BREAK**— page 2

break still, but taking our spring break away. People are just making Easter break their spring break now and will be traveling anyway, so I wish we had a spring break because burnout is getting real for the students."

One student going home for Easter break is senior Callan Mullhan.

"The email didn't sway my decision since I'm already in the Pittsburgh area," said Mullhan. "However, if I lived out of state I would be more inclined to quarantine before returning. Although there's an added risk with travel, that risk can be lessened by taking the proper steps. Actions such as getting tested, wearing your mask over your nose, and remaining at a safe distance can not only help yourself, but other people."

Students like Mullhan are excited for the reopening of the state but continue to proceed with caution.

"I think that the restrictions being lifted next month is a good plan. I have been happy to see more people getting vaccinated as well, including myself," said Mullhan. "As more people are vaccinated, we can begin to reopen as needed. I'll continue to remain diligent in the Pittsburgh community. I'm still not comfortable eating at restaurants for example, so that part of my



GRIFFIN SENDEK | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

While in-person religious services remain heavily regulated for capacity and safety measures, students reflect on how they will spend their second Easter break in the pandemic. With travel restrictions easing slightly, just in time for the holiday, many students are still not convinced they will return home.

routine won't be changing even when I am home."

In addition to the guidelines set by Wolf and the Pennsylvania Department of Health, students will also have to abide by the regulations of their home states, should they choose to go to an out-of-state home over the course of the five-day Easter Break.

Although many surrounding states, including Ohio, are increasing vaccination capacities and ramping up distribution to wider swaths of people, the dan-

ger of contracting COVID-19 and the pandemic remain.

Still, it is clear things are looking up on The Bluff. In a recent announcement by the university, the Fall 2021 semester will return to a full on-campus learning environment. But for now, the University will not be making any changes to their guidelines despite Gov. Wolf's announcement.

"The university campus community has been well served by the conduct and safety regula-

tions currently in place," Welsch said. "Those rules and practices will remain in place through the end of the academic year, even if regulations loosen elsewhere. Our capacity limits, social distancing expectations, masking rules, hygiene practices, and cleaning protocols will not change as they have proven to be quite effective."

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Meet the creators of WaySlay, the Pittsburgh-based "UberEats of beauty supplies"

GILLIAN FITZGERALD
staff writer

Speaking for college students without cars, it can be extremely frustrating running out of the essentials — especially the beauty and hair products they rely on.

The good news for all of those living in the Pittsburgh area? There's now an app that can deliver those products to us in as little as 20 minutes: WaySlay.

Co-founders Ian Grant II and Michael James like to describe it as the "Uber Eats for beauty supplies." They came up with the idea when James' girlfriend ran out of a product while getting ready for an event. When there was no way to quickly fix the problem, they found a solution.

"What we noticed is that delivery is a major preference for consumers. You can get food delivered, groceries delivered, and many other products that are used on a regular basis," Grant said. "However, when it comes to

beauty supplies — which are also things that are needed on a regular basis — there's no option for consumers to have beauty supplies delivered directly to their doorstep."

WaySlay's website and app allow users to plug-in their address, and they connect them with products from local small businesses. The supplies provided are not only more natural, but they are also tailored for women with any type of hair and skin tone. As a Black-owned business, WaySlay wants every woman to leave the experience feeling beautiful and ready for the day ahead of them.

One of the first deliveries that WaySlay completed in Pittsburgh was to a chemotherapy patient who ordered a wig, which to James was proof itself of the impact WaySlay will have on the community.

"We actually botched the order," James admitted. "So, I was like, 'I'm just going to give you the wig for free' because of the

confusion. I personally delivered it to her, and when I handed it to her, I could just see the emotion in her face. She said, 'You don't know how much this means to me,' and it's things like that that make an impact on our customers, and we want to be able to keep doing that."

Even though an app requires little to no face-to-face interaction, the two founders prioritize their consumers by calling each first-time customer to get feedback and learn more about what they want to see from WaySlay. The founders seek to provide a wonderful experience and a service in the community and want their consumers to walk away with great beauty products they can't find anywhere else, said WaySlay's head of Communications Arianna LaBarrie.

"Often, myself as a Black woman, when I go to traditional stores, they don't have the exact products that I'm looking for. Especially a person with curly hair, I don't want silicones, I don't want sulfates — and [in]

most mainstream beauty products that's all that is offered," LaBarrie said. "And the hair care for people of color is either very small, or in Walmart up until recently, it would be locked up. It would be a whole thing to ask for permission to get your hair care needs — it's honestly a dehumanizing situation."

"What I find unique about WaySlay is that they are not only helping these brick and mortar retailers get more people in, they are providing dignity in getting your hair care products and acknowledging that, in the beauty space, women of color are trendsetters and main consumers that are often left out of the conversation."

Providing a new way for women to get the specific products they need gives them confidence, and Grant and James wanted to bring that to Pittsburgh.

The WaySlay team was originally based solely in Miami and launched in Pittsburgh almost two months ago, not only be-

cause James moved here, but also because of the demographics. Pittsburgh's population is 23% African American — who the app is mainly geared towards — and the city's array of colleges and universities provide a large community that can benefit from the company. Grant and James are even offering Duquesne students free delivery on their first WaySlay order with the code "DUKES" for students to try out their service.

The co-founders intend to expand to at least five major cities over time, such as Atlanta, New

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THE DUKES NEDUKE

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EDITORIAL
POLICY

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COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

Since the commencement of March Madness, the NCAA has been under fire over its exploitation of student athletes.

#NotNCAAProperty: Student athletes push for reform in college sports

Since the emergence of COVID-19, professional and college athletes have used their platforms to address racism and inequality in the United States, while also making their voices heard by demanding social and political reform.

Beginning with the Black Lives Matter protests during the last season of the NBA, these efforts are now trickling down to the college level as a growing number of students are raising the alarm about the unfair treatment they've been subject to over the years. The problem at hand is that they are not seen as people, but rather as a tangible asset that provides monetary value to the NCAA. Although considered an asset, the players themselves are unable to benefit from their image or likeness.

Several college athletes have taken to social media to speak up about the issue, using the hashtag #NotNCAAProperty to voice their opinions. This movement was originally started by a small group some time ago, but it has now exploded into mainstream media as an organized coalition focused on demanding immediate action for an act of injustice that has been overlooked for years.

Players believe this hashtag accurately describes their pent up unrest, that is now boiling over, on account of the NCAA neglecting their “rights” and only viewing them as dollar signs. The group's current

leader — Isaiah Livers from the University of Michigan — recently brought the movement to center stage by wearing a “#NotNCAAProperty” t-shirt during a March Madness game last week.

Since Livers' bold statement on live television, the president of the NCAA, Mark Emmert, publicly announced that he will meet with players after the completion of the tournament.

Although this is certainly a step in the right direction, many student athletes are expressing disappointment over Emmert's decision to de-

is more important than addressing these matters?”

According to Livers, the group will indeed take short-term action to respond to Emmert's negligent actions, only further adding fuel to the fire. These developments are exciting for college sports, but at the same time, quite nerve racking as there is no telling what direction this conflict will follow.

In my opinion, after years of giving their blood, sweat and tears into sports only to participate for free, it is exciting to see players not only demanding the change that they so deserve, but also for the future generations of college athletes to come.

The truth of the matter is that the #NotNCAAProperty movement still has a long way to go, and many obstacles to overcome, before any long-lasting transformation of the existing system is actually accomplished.

It is in the best interest of the players, as well as the NCAA, to take into account these concerns. If the NCAA continues to ignore what is right in front of them, then it will undoubtedly lead to further conflict that might potentially change the face of college sports as we know it.

I urge the NCAA to consider and quickly act on the #NotNCAAProperty message, rather than disregarding it and continuing to treat student athletes like walking \$100 bills.



NOAH WILBUR
opinions editor

lay the meeting another two weeks, arguing that he is failing to take seriously genuine and legitimate concerns.

In fact, in an ensuing letter to Emmert, Livers, Rutgers' Geo Baker and Iowa's Jordan Bohannon went as far as to ask, “Can you please explain what you will be doing over the next two weeks that

STAFF
EDITORIAL

Gender inequality in college sports must be addressed

This week kicked off the NCAA Men's Basketball “March Madness” Tournament — leading to buzzer-beaters, upset victories and busted brackets.

And it also showcased the wide discrepancies between men's and women's collegiate sports.

Sedona Prince, an Oregon basketball player who has nearly 700,000 followers on TikTok, posted a video that went viral that highlighted the massive differences between the women's weight rooms at their tournament in Texas, and the men's weight room setup in Indiana.

The women's weight room was a rack of dumbbell weights and a couple yoga mats.

The men's weight room boasts numerous, spread-out, lifting weight racks, benches and numerous other equipment.

In her video, she says that when pictures of the two weight rooms got released, the NCAA came out with a statement saying that it wasn't money, but rather space, that was the problem.

But Prince showed viewers the space of their practice court, the “weight room” and all this extra space where equipment could be placed — thus, debunking the NCAA's bogus claim.

She concludes the video by telling viewers that “If you aren't upset about this problem, then you're a part of it.”

Prince is exactly right. The NCAA's trademarked and famous “March Madness” branding is kept only for the men's tournament. The women's “gift bag” from the NCAA had a bag, a hat and some water bottles; while the men received blankets, shirts, toiletries, puzzles, a hat and so much more.

“While I appreciate the outrage, the fact that there's a huge disparity between men's and women's sports is hardly breaking news,” former Notre Dame women's basketball coach Muffet McGraw posted on Twitter.

The women's tournament brings in around \$35 million a year compared to the men's \$800 million, but the differences in revenue aren't an excuse for the massive difference in tournament experience. How can women's basketball — and other women's sports — expect to grow when the NCAA treats it like a Junior Varsity sport? For a non-profit organization like the NCAA whose guise is to lift up every student-athlete, these differences should be fixed immediately.

And in fact, they were. Practically overnight, numerous companies stepped in and provided the women with a new and improved weight room — as they deserved.

It's not just women's basketball, either. The NCAA decided that they will limit the teams participating in the women's volleyball tournament this year — despite the tournament all being held in one location, and the fact that the men's basketball and football championships didn't cut back the number of teams.

“Basketball didn't cut back, why are we cutting back?” Nebraska volleyball coach John Cook asked reporters at a news conference this week. “Football didn't cut back, why are we cutting back?”

The spotlight on inequities between men's and women's collegiate sports have never been brighter. With the NCAA under a lot of fire, now is the time for universities to step up and demand what's right for all of their athletes.

The mid-size deserves more representation in the fashion industry

ALYSE KAMINSKI
staff columnist

As much as I love Spring and Summer, it is hardly my favorite time of year fashion-wise. Since high school, I've been self-conscious about my body. I know that according to my BMI, I am categorized as overweight, but I wouldn't really call myself plus-size. Even so, wearing shorts and showing off my legs makes me nervous. Trying on swimsuits is a nightmare each year.

I am midsize and I am learning to be happy with that, but it's been a journey to get there.

Mid-size women get lost in the shuffle. Most brands show off

their skinniest models, with small waists and hardly an ounce of fat on their bodies. Of course, these women deserve to have representation, but so do others. Brands are also finally learning to show off bigger girls, because they deserve to be seen and feel represented too. However, a lot of popular stores don't really show women who are a size 8 to 14 — girls who are in the middle.

American Eagle and Aerie, like always, probably do the best job at showing off how their clothes will look on any body type. You'd really think by now more brands would be following suit, but I just haven't seen that. For example, I've been

looking high and low lately on all the popular brands' websites for a cute graduation outfit. Scrolling down every page there is one skinny model after another, accompanied by the few and far between plus-sized woman.

For the longest time, I felt like my size was strange. Looking back, I know that it is not. Many women wear mid-size clothing and that's part of the reason why finding size mediums and larges can be hard when shopping. Even so, trends aren't being modeled to this group to show what new styles will look like on a girl who falls in the middle.

One thing that has really helped me with realizing mid-size is perfectly normal is TikTok. The algorithm has given me videos of girls with a similar figure as me showing off new trends on their bodies. I'm learning what looks good on my type of figure, what doesn't really work, and most importantly, to wear whatever I want to wear.

Fashion is unique to everyone. It is part of what makes you who you are. That is what is so fun about it. I am sick of having to feel limited to wearing bulky sweatshirts and leggings everyday strictly because I don't feel comfortable going to the store to try on the latest jeans or blouse trend.

What we really need to embrace is all sorts of body types. Every-



COURTESY OF ROSIE ABIGAIL BLOG

The fashion industry has battled issues of body image discrimination for years.

one needs to be represented in the fashion industry. Not only this, but the fashion industry could do a much better job of creating trends that don't just look good on one specific body type.

There is so much work to be done on this, and frankly I don't know enough about fashion to say how to solve the problem. But when it comes down to it, I think you should just wear what you like. If you like a certain trend, there is no need to let someone else's standard of beauty dictate if

you try it or not.

Life's too short to care what other people think. We literally lost a year of the ability to go out and show off cute clothes to the world because of COVID-19. Wear what you want and have fun doing it. I know it's easier said than done, but even just trying is a good step to take.

Every body type is beautiful. Every figure is valid. The idea that someone is more attractive than another person because of their weight is man-made.



COURTESY OF ECOCLUT

Size-inclusive fashion is increasingly popular amid the body positivity movement.

Fast fashion: A threat to the environment and basic human rights

SARAH DUJORDAN
staff columnist

Fast fashion is one of those topics climbing its way to the forefront of ethical dilemmas Gen Z is attempting to solve. The issues with fast fashion are widely known, but highly ignored. The reason it is so ignored? We are constantly surrounded by it.

I may be biased when assuming everyone is familiar with what fast fashion is. Fast fashion is defined as "inexpensive clothing produced rapidly by mass-market retailers in response to the latest trends."

So yes, the majority of your favorite stores — if not all — participate in fast fashion.

This topic became a universal concern within the past decade with the rise in sustainability. Social media allowed for people to voice their beliefs about fast fashion and the harm that accompanies it.

While I agree fast fashion is terrible for the environment and the exploited workers, the prices are what some people rely on. Fast fashion is not ignored solely because it is so present in our lives; the prices compared to sustainable fash-

ion are impossible to beat.

Cheap retailers such as Shein, Forever 21, H&M, Amazon and even more expensive brands like Urban Outfitters are just a few that produce fast fashion. These stores listed have a specific demographic and targeted audiences of teenagers and young adults. Marketing-wise this is smart, as teenagers and young adults can keep up with the latest trends without draining their bank account.

Fast fashion's biggest negative impact is the environmental aspect. Many can agree that the quality of clothing they are getting from places like Forever 21 and Shein are nothing special, which ultimately leads to having to get rid of them. Another reason for this occurrence is the transition from four fashion seasons to now fifty-two, which results in these brands having to mass produce new clothing every single week. Ultimately, this leads to overproduction and increased waste.

Due to the amount of toxic chemicals, dyes and synthetic fabrics being used, these articles of clothing are impossible to break down. A majority of these old materials will sit in

landfills for ages, releasing unwanted toxins into the air we breathe.

Also, the harmful effects that fast fashion factories have on their workers and the area where it is mass produced can't be ignored.

There are many solutions that attempt to combat fast fashion. The movement has been so cleverly named "slow fashion." Small businesses and large corporations like Target implement efforts for being sustainable. Supporting small businesses is something the U.S. needs now more than ever. This allows you to know exactly who and where your items are coming from.

We must further acknowledge that fast fashion can be the only affordable option for lower-income people and areas.

While some may consider that large corporations attempting to "stop" fast fashion is performative activism, I think it is a step in the right direction. There are plenty of ways to find stores within your budget that also promote slow fashion efforts.

Of course, no one is perfect. I will admit, I am still guilty of putting my money toward fast



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

H&M, a pioneer of fast fashion, is now one of the industry's largest polluters.

fashion brands (yes, I did just buy a pair of jeans last week from Old Navy). I still try my best to be conscious of where my clothing is coming from.

Thrift shopping is a low maintenance way to stop contributing to fast fashion. Thrifting consists of low prices, recycled clothing and contributing to a better environment. Personally, that sounds like the way to go, and it has proven to be the best option

as a college student — and not just for clothing purposes.

We all hear the term sweatshop and picture children working for prolonged hours under terrible circumstances — which makes us uncomfortable to think we are condoning it — but that is the reality of it. Trends go in and out of style every new season. Next time you click "add to cart," think about where it may be coming from.

Local fashion influencers get *thrifty* on social media

ELIZABETH SHARP
staff writer

It comes as no shock that the thrift shopping scene in Pittsburgh continues to grow along with the city. As spring approaches, updating closets with new pieces will again become a priority for many.

Pittsburgh is not far behind larger cities when it comes to the thrift scene. Many neighborhoods now include a variety of thrift or vintage stores for local customers to enjoy.

Thrift shopping is the perfect way to spice up your closet without breaking the bank. It also allows for finding one of a kind pieces and unique vintage items for the upcoming season.

Julia Gretz, a local thrift influencer, uploads content on TikTok related to the Pittsburgh thrift scene. She currently boasts over 9,000 followers on the platform.

She got her start in thrifting when she was in high school and would thrift with her mom.

"It was something fun to do together, and it had very affordable prices," Gretz said.

Since then, she has immersed herself in the Pittsburgh thrift scene and shares ways her followers can do the same.

In terms of how social media has directly impacted the thrift scene, Gretz explained that TikTok and Instagram are the largest plat-



GRIFFIN SENDEK / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Pittsburgh influencers Julia Gretz and Esperanza Lorena use Instagram and TikTok to share thrifting tips and recommendations.

forms thrifting is gaining traction on. The promotion of local thrift stores through social media apps allows smaller and community-run businesses to be recognized by local shoppers.

Gretz also highlighted the sustainability aspect associated with thrift shopping. Buying clothing secondhand allows the reduction of energy wasting and resources needed to make new items.

Gretz also offered some tips to avoid feeling overwhelmed at a thrift store.

"Go in with a plan of what items you may be looking for and focus on one section at a time. Also, doing some research in advance, like

looking at reviews on TikTok, can be helpful," she said.

She also mentioned that routinely checking thrift stores will often lead to the best results. Stores are constantly receiving donations, which leads to them putting out new pieces for sale.

Another Pittsburgh fashion influencer, Esperanza Lorena, offered some insight on how social media impacts the thrift scene as well.

"I think that social media has been a great outlet and resource for people to share their style, inspire others, and for fashion inspiration," she said. "Social media has also made people a lot more aware about the nega-

tive impacts of fast fashion in the world. Not everyone can afford to not shop fast fashion, and that's why thrifting is such a great alternative. It's sustainable and affordable — the best of both worlds."

In terms of fashion, Lorena explained that thrifting is great for finding pieces that are classic, neutral and easy to mix and match. Thrift shops tend to carry a variety of these types of items, which makes shopping for them at these stores that much easier.

Both influencers offered their own personalized lists of the best thrift stores in town.

Gretz and Lorena agreed that

Thriftique is a shop that should be at the top of everyone's list.

"I almost always find exactly what I have in mind when I thrift there. They have an amazing selection of both designer and non-designer clothing at affordable prices," Lorena said.

Thriftique is located in Lawrenceville and is presented in a large warehouse setting, which allows for an immense clothing selection. The store also offers a fairly large collection of home decor items.

Another shop both Gretz and Lorena recommended was Clothes Minded, located in Bloomfield.

This shop is more curated toward vintage clothing, which makes for some unique finds. The shop also carries accessories and, occasionally, designer pieces.

Gretz also mentioned the benefits of Facebook Marketplace. Even though it's not considered a thrift store, it functions in a similar way. It still provides the benefit of buying secondhand and supporting local sellers.

Specific to college students, Facebook Marketplace is a great resource to use when trying to find things like apartment furniture and home decor, according to Gretz.

Gretz can be found on TikTok @juliagretz and Instagram @juliagretz. Lorena can be found on Instagram @theurbandarling.

Nursing school ranks first in military friendly schools

HARLEY VARAVETTE
staff writer

Duquesne University's School of Nursing has frequently been designated as a military friendly school.

But now they're No. 1.

Earlier this month, the School of Nursing was ranked as the No. 1 military friendly school among 800 other institutions by Vqtor, a service-disabled, veteran-owned small business whose goal is to connect the military community to employment, entrepreneurial and educational opportunities.

Methodology to create the designation also came from input from the Military Friendly Advisor Council. The council is made up of experts and leaders in the higher education and military communities.

Over 1,200 other institutions took part in the 2020-2021 survey.

Ratings among the schools were determined by a combination of an institution's survey response set and government public data sources, within a logic-based scoring assessment. A school's ability to meet thresholds for student retention, graduation, job placement and loan default rates for specifically student veterans was also measured in the rankings.

With over 1,300 students in the nursing program, the nursing school accommodates active and retired military personnel to succeed with their studies via online and in-person labs.

Michael Neft, a retired lieutenant colonel of



ALEX LAFONTAINE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Out of 800 other institutions, Duquesne's School of Nursing was ranked first by experts and leaders in higher education as the most military friendly school.

the U.S. Army currently working towards his Ph.D, said he chose Duquesne for its reputation. His interest in anatomy and his drive for helping others encouraged him to earn his masters, along with serving his country. Neft began his masters in May of 2016 and plans to finish by 2023.

"Nursing is a great profession with many fields of study," Neft said. "It is very diverse and available to everyone."

School of Nursing Dean Mary Ellen Glasgow

noted Duquesne's mission statement of serving God through serving others, and that meeting the needs for the university's military students is simply "the right thing to do."

"We understand the military is already a major commitment, so being ranked number one is important to us as it shows we are doing our best," Glasgow said.

Between 2015 and 2016, the nursing school received a grant to accommodate military students to ensure they receive a full education

while they serve. When a student needs to take a leave, they are given time to make up their courses; however, students who take long-term leaves must retake their courses as needed.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has presented unique challenges to college students, it has not hindered the ability for military personnel to attend their classes, as graduates are online and undergrads can do the same as well as commute, as most students do to their clinicals.

Athleisure

By Griffin Sendek

8

Athleisure is all about low maintenance comfort but that doesn't mean it can't also be stylish.

There's only one rule you absolutely need to follow when it comes to athleisure: Don't waste your time putting together the perfect fit.

Don't take the leisure out of athleisure.

Hemming and hawing about perfect matches and color coordinations and trying on 13 different outfits in the mirror before going back to the very first one is reserved for other areas of fashion.

Let me break it down for you:

Almost all athleisure outfits start with the same basic framework:

- Step 1. Pick your base**
- Step 2. Choose your coverup**
- Step 3. Accessorize!**

- **Top: sports bra, tank or crop top.**
- **Bottoms: leggings, athletic shorts, joggers or biker shorts.**
- **Sneakers (white if you got them)**

Now with this base you're ready for the gym — but we're not going to the gym —



we're lounging around the house, having some casual company or maybe meeting our friends for a quick bite to eat.

The transition from gym wear to athlei-

sure is most often as simple as adding a single item of clothing and a few accessories.

Toss on a zip-up hoodie: oversized, cropped or form-fitting, they all match the look and can help keep you a little bit warm in the occasionally chilly first few weeks of spring. You can style the hoodie loose but I recommend zipping it only part way, turning it into an off-the-shoulder top.

This next step is crucial for making the look just a little bit more fashionable. Add some jewelry but no gaudy or big statement pieces. Throw on a simple necklace (or two) preferably gold. This look is complete as is, but as all fashion goes, there's always a little something more to add to take it to the next level. Bring it out some more: Add a simple bracelet or anklet, a pair of earrings (again

gold is in style) and a few rings if you got them.

Add a "light" makeup look, (foundation, mascara, blush, light contour, lipgloss) and

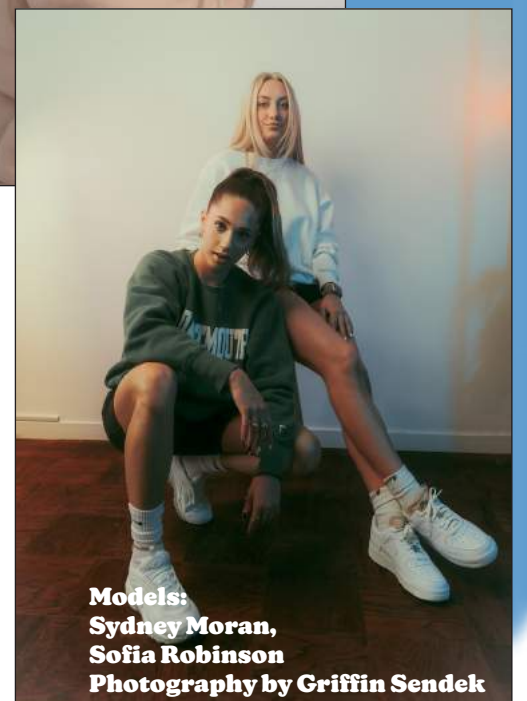
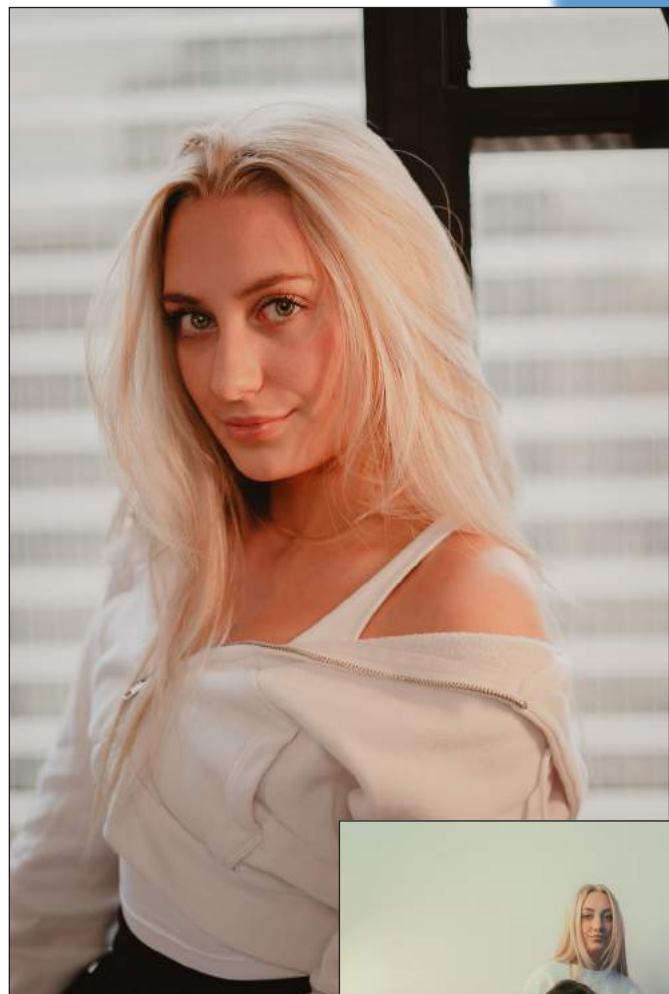
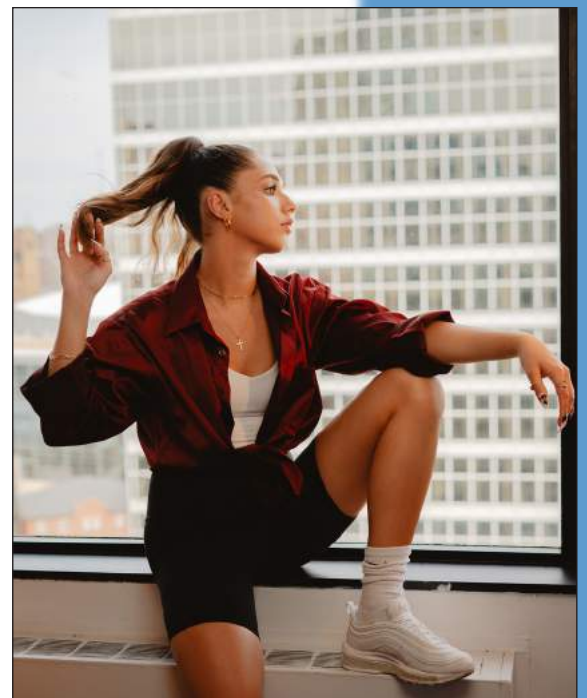
before you know it, this gym wear and a hoodie combo is transformed to a casual yet fashionable fit.

Repeat the following step but replace the hoodie for a crew neck or cropped sweater for similar results.

Athleisure isn't usually associated with going out, but one quick change and you're ready to hit the bars with friends. Take a dress shirt, or any button-up for that matter, put it on but don't button it up, tie it into a knot and roll up the sleeves. It doesn't need to perfectly fit either, oversized works for this look.

Grab a clutch or small purse and you're ready to have some fun while also being the most comfortable one in the room.

There's no need to sacrifice comfort for style, use these tips and mix and match with your wardrobe to make some trendy and fashionable fits.



Models:
Sydney Moran,
Sofia Robinson
Photography by Griffin Sendek

Dukes down Long Island, earn spot in conference title game

BRENTARO YAMANE
staff writer

Collegiate sports teams around the country have suffered from the COVID-19 pandemic, whether it be from athletes contracting the virus and/or having games postponed and canceled.

On Sunday, though, Duquesne wide receiver Cyrus Holder made Long Island University catch a case of a new type of virus: The 'Cyrus Virus.'

Behind seven receptions for 211 yards and two touchdowns, Holder helped lead the Dukes (3-0, 3-0) to a 35-17 Northeast Conference victory over Long Island (1-2, 1-2) at Arthur J. Rooney Athletic Field on Sunday afternoon.

Despite Holder's stellar individual performance — which helped Duquesne earn a spot in the NEC championship game — his primary focus was doing whatever he



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Duquesne wide receiver Cyrus Holder evades a Long Island defender during the Dukes' victory on Sunday. Holder led the team in receiving yards and touchdowns against LIU, recording 211 yards and two scores respectively. Holder's 296 receiving yards and three TDs lead the team this season.

could to help his team win.

"It was a great team performance," Holder said postgame. "I'm just proud of my guys."

Duquesne coach Jerry Schmitt has been impressed by Holder's efforts during practice and wasn't surprised by his performance in the victory.

"We watched him in practice for five to six weeks. We knew he could have a big game at some point in time," Schmitt said. "He does a lot of really good things for us."

Long Island kicker Justin Hertlein missed a 29-yard field goal on the team's opening drive, but the Sharks responded on their second drive with quarterback Conor Regan's 2-yard rushing touchdown. The score, which came on fourth-and-goal, gave Long Island a 7-0 lead near the end of the first quarter.

It initially appeared as if the Dukes were going to struggle against the Sharks' defense, going three-and-out on their first two possessions. After Regan's touchdown, however, Duquesne answered with a three-play scoring drive that ended with quarterback Joe Mischler's 75-yard strike to Holder to tie the score at seven apiece.

With 9:14 left in the second quarter, Long Island defensive back Tariq Snead intercepted a Mischler pass. On the ensuing drive, the Sharks went for it on fourth-and-6 from Duquesne's 31-yard line, failing to convert after a 2-yard rush by Regan.

Four plays after the Sharks turned it over on downs, Mischler connected with Holder for a 60-yard score, giving the Dukes a 14-7 lead. Near the end of the first half, Mischler extended the Duquesne lead to 14 when he threw a scoring pass to wide receiver Abdul Janneh. The pass — intended for fellow receiver Davie Henderson — was tipped up by Sharks' linebacker Ricco Aaron Jr. and subsequently caught by Janneh for the score.

Jonathan DeBique — who rushed for 123 yards on 20 carries — gave Long Island a spark by rushing for 36 yards on the second half's opening drive. Shortly

after, Regan threw a 12-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Derick Eugene in the right corner of the end zone to trim the deficit to 21-14.

With Long Island inching closer, Duquesne running back Garrett Owens helped to put the game out of reach, rushing for two second-half touchdowns. Owens added 104 rushing yards on 23 carries on the day.

The Sharks put up an efficient offensive performance, racking up 368 total yards and 24 first downs, slightly better than Duquesne's 21 first downs.

However, 509 total yards and a 70% third-down conversion rate helped the Dukes earn the win. Mischler completed

21 of 27 passes on the afternoon, throwing for three touchdowns and a career-high 385 yards.

"In the end, you got to play 60 minutes of football, and I applaud them for doing that," Schmitt said. "There were a lot of things that we weren't doing great, but we turned around and made plays. It wasn't a pretty one, but we got it done."

Duquesne will look to complete a perfect regular season when they travel to Bryant University for a meeting with the Bulldogs on March 28. With a win over Bryant or a Sacred Heart victory over Wagner, the Dukes would earn the right to host the conference title game at Rooney Field on April 11.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Garrett Owens, pictured above, runs the ball during Duquesne's 35-17 win over Long Island on Sunday. Owens, Duquesne's leading rusher this season, transferred to the Bluff after enjoying three successful seasons at the Division II level with Mercyhurst. Owens' contributions have been vital for a Duquesne program that is in its first season since former star back A.J. Hines' graduation.

Beloved Duquesne PA announcer, Dom Errico, dies at age 42

ADAM LINDNER
sports editor

Known as the voice of Duquesne athletics, Dom Errico spent his offseason doing what he does best: helping others.

"He was a courier at Giant Eagle, assisting individuals that [were] high-risk during the pandemic with delivering their groceries," said Zac Weiss, a friend of Errico's and a Pittsburgh sports journalist. "He was one of the first that was willing to throw himself out there because it made someone else's day easier. That's who Dom was."

Errico, Duquesne athletics' public address announcer, died last week following a months-long battle with COVID-19.

He was 42.

Errico, who had been hospitalized since Jan. 25, is survived by his wife, Libbie, and their two sons, Nicholas, 10, and Anthony, 5.

The ever-jovial Errico, best-known for his work at Duquesne basketball games, became a staple at Duquesne sporting events following his hiring at the school in 2014.

Weiss met Errico in 2012 at an arena football game. The two became fast friends, mingling first at Pittsburgh Power games, then at Duquesne events.

"Dom was somebody that, no matter what he was doing, he put 100% into it because he loved what he did. He loved helping. He just loved life," Weiss said. "Dom had one of the best, biggest, brightest hearts that I've ever known."

Mike Asti, an area journalist, met Errico at TribLive Radio in 2016; at the time, Asti was an assistant station manager, while Errico had been hired for voiceover help.

He, too, remembered Errico's affable nature. Asti recalled a Halloween event the Trib hosted a few years ago. Event organizers were in search of a selfless volunteer, but to no avail.

"It included having TribLive Radio clappers and passing out candy and toys. And, honestly, nobody wanted to do that," Asti laughed.

Then, Dom stepped up.

"Dom got really into it. He actually did this funny dance with the clappers and threw his leg in the air," Asti recalled. "He stood there for hours and didn't ask for anyone else to switch with him, never complained at all, and

charmed every kid that went by."

Asti said that Errico's love for his sons reminded him of his own father.

"Seeing his face light up when he saw his kids — personally, it reminded me of how my dad looked at me. My dad passed away when I was 14, so [I was] only four years older than Dom's oldest son right now. I kind of understand what his sons are going through right now, and just having that remind me of my dad looking at me — that's the same look Dom had for his kids and his wife, too."

"We always would talk about our careers and the business," Asti continued, "but Dom would always find a way to brag about his kids, brag about his family. As much as he loved his craft and using his voice — which, there was nobody with a better voice that I've heard — his family was definitely his top priority."

Errico and Weiss often bonded over their shared passions of sports, media and Duquesne athletics. But Weiss remembered Errico, above all else, as a doting family man.

"Dom was a family man that loved his kids — both of his sons — absolutely to death. As loyal as he was to everything, that was always his

No. 1," Weiss said. "It's been difficult for a lot of people trying to process how one of the nicest people you'll ever meet is no longer physically with us, but he will always be with us."

Errico was deeply invested in Duquesne's athletic success, often sharing his thoughts about the school's various teams via his Twitter page. He was especially interested in the men's basketball program and was eagerly awaiting the opportunity to call a game at the newly-renovated UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse, which now will never happen.

But Errico's memory will remain — not only for those who loved him, but for those that enjoyed his presence at gamedays, too.

"Uptown, in that Hill District area, was Dom's territory. Dom became 'the voice' for that area. For arena football for a time, before the [Power] ceased operations. And, obviously, with Duquesne, where so many people became familiar with Dom's voice," Weiss said. "A booming, yet warm and comforting voice at the same time."

Asti agreed.

"I think God might have been jealous and needed to borrow the voice."

Duquesne's Red Masquers return to live theatre

CAPRI SCARCELLI
a&e editor

Live theatre is back, and Duquesne's Red Masquers couldn't be more excited.

From March 18-20 at 8 p.m., the theatre group performed The Pittsburgh Monologue Project — a show inspired by true events, told by select residents of Pittsburgh. This show was a long-lasting tradition when technical director Justin Sines was in his undergrad from 2007-2011, occurring once a semester.

According to Sines, this production was written by Duquesne theatre arts professor Robert

took that last push to be like 'yes, now is the time to do it,' Sines said. "We finally dove right in, so I asked [Isenburg and Keller] for their top 10 favorite monologues they've written over the years, so it was the best of The Pittsburgh Monologue Project."

To maintain social-distancing, "traffic patterns" were put in place to safely maneuver actors on and off the stage in between monologues, while also spreading out in areas backstage and in the main lobby to keep that distance. According to Sines, actors were also provided clear, plastic masks that functionally rested on their chins.



COURTESY OF OLIVIA DONIA

With a heavy Pittsburgh accent, actor Jarrett Klunk portrays a hopeful Pirates fan.

for alumni, friends and family to enjoy Red Masquers' performances from afar.

"In the theatre, we've had to adapt in ways we are not used to," Umbel said. "We may prefer not doing shows over Zoom, and we might prefer being in the theatre, but I think the biggest thing we can take away from this experience is how many people we really reach doing shows with a virtual aspect. I hope that they continue to stream shows in the future because it's really incredible that [people who can't make it] can open up the computer and be there with us."

Rehearsals fluctuated between online and in-person, but were still three days a week, with each

own and come to rehearsal ready to ask questions. I was impressed with them," Umbel said.

There is still much to look forward to from the Red Masquers this semester. Coming up are the Premier performances: the longest running, student-produced, one-act festivals in Eastern U.S.

"Every year, we have had students write, direct, stage and act in these student-run shows," Sines said. "I come in just to go 'this looks great,' and to make sure the audience has everything they need."

Sophomore political science major Riley Moore, an actor from The Pittsburgh Monologue Project, said that this is "just the beginning" for the Red Masquers'



COURTESY OF OLIVIA DONIA

Actor Dori Shearer emulates the annoying catch-up call with your "Ma."

actor rehearsing their monologue once a week for 20 minutes at a time, giving them three times to rehearse before dress rehearsals and tech week. Not to mention, COVID testing was still taking place in Genesius Theater, though the testing administrators were "very understanding," Sines said.

"[The actors] did it, they managed to memorize [the show] and make all those changes on their

return to a new normalcy.

"As long as theatre is still around, so are we," Moore said.

The Premier shows will occur from April 28 - May 1. Those interested in submitting a script can do so at duqredmasquers.com.

Editors Note: The Duquesne Duke Managing Editor Colleen Hammond directed the *Pittsburgh Monologue Project*.



COURTESY OF OLIVIA DONIA

New actor Michael Kirk's monologue gave an emotional spin to the finale.

Isenburg and Brad Keller, who sought to delve into the city's unique culture by interviewing Pittsburgh locals at random, jotting down what they liked to put together a story piece by piece.

The show is broken up into individual monologues, rotating through each seamlessly. In the midst of a pandemic, Sines said this was the best way to "get theatre back out into the world."

"We've wanted to do [the show again] for so many years, so it

With only one or two actors on the stage at a time, Sines said that the production process was an adjustment for the performers who were not having the typical comradery of a rehearsal — they didn't come together as a cast until a week before the show.

"Theatre is a collaborative art," Sines said. "The process is a little different when you're not working with your fellow actors but still trying to make a cohesive production."

Junior education major and actor Jarrett Klunk agreed with this, saying that despite the struggle of adapting to this new way of theatre, "we can still create a sense of community."

"There isn't as much interaction [on stage], so it's more of a personal development while putting thought into the character," Klunk said. "The masks did make it harder to convey emotion."

The performance allowed limited in-person seating, with chairs strategically spaced throughout the auditorium; otherwise, the full production was recorded and streamed through the Red Masquers Facebook page, according to Sines.

Red Masquers president Heather Umbel, a senior theatre arts major, said that this virtual option allowed a new way



COURTESY OF OLIVIA DONIA

Actor Susan Bettan gives the crowd a laugh for her two monologues.

WEEK'S EVENTS

Duquesne Comedy Club:
Bluff After Hours
Thursday, March 25 @ 9 p.m.

Go to Campus Link for the link to the DSTV YouTube page for a student-run episode of jokes, special guests and more laughs to come!

DPC DUNite: Rita's Ice
Friday, March 26 @ 9 p.m.

Go to the Union NiteSpot for free Italian ice! Supplies limited.

UPCOMING RELEASES

My Savior
Carrie Underwood
Friday, March 26

Her eighth studio album, Carrie Underwood is trying her hand at gospel, released through Capital Records Nashville.

Godzilla vs. Kong
Friday, March 26

The two iconic mythical creatures come face-to-face in the battle of a lifetime.

CAPRI'S COMPLAINTS

Fall 2021: But What's Going On?

An email sent by Duquesne University Official Communication announced a hopeful return for Fall 2021: but what exactly are we hoping for?

The email promised "a full on-campus learning environment and regular student life operations" for the upcoming semester, but what exactly does that entail? Will we be masked? Will hybrid classes still be prominent?

Strategically, the email was vague enough to stall; it gives students an update just in time for us to put more money in their pockets.

I am overjoyed at the idea of returning to a semblance of normalcy, but I'd at least like an idea of what that might be.

—Capri Scarcelli

'Snyder's Cut' surprises audiences with new release

GRIFFIN SENDEK
multimedia editor

I never thought the day would come that I would actually watch The Snyder Cut of *Justice League*. The myth presiding in the minds of frantic DC comic movie fanboys was brought to life and premiered on HBO Max on March 18, 2021.

Even more shocking than the mere existence of The Snyder Cut is the fact that it's actually good — and when placed against the litany of superhero movies, it might be one of the best.

Some background for those who are a little confused of what "a Snyder cut" is: Film director Zach Snyder — famous for 300, Watchmen, Suckerpunch as well as the director of DC properties *Man of Steel* and *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* — was in the process of shooting *Justice League* (2017), when the tragic suicide of his daughter Autumn forced Snyder to drop the project.

Joss Weadon, well-known for directing the first two *Avengers* films,

was called in to finish the job. Audiences' general displeasure with *Man of Steel* and a huge negative outcry from *Batman v Superman* lead to some hope with the shift away from Snyder's direction.

Under Weadon's control, *Justice League* underwent extensive reshoots and a large tonal shift from Snyder's original vision for the film.

Justice League arrived at theaters on Nov. 15, 2017 and resulted in a meddling, unfunny, boring and confusing mess of a film. This isn't a review of the original *Justice League*, but it's important to note where this all started.

The film had its defenders and there were a few moments that worked — but the general consensus was that *Justice League* was bad overall. This was a huge disappointment and for the aforementioned crazed DC fanboys, they were convinced that Joss Weadon had ruined the project and a secret, perfect cut of Zach Snyder's *Justice League*. Despite that cut having never existed at that point, the hashtag #ReleaseTheSnyderCut blew up. While a vocal minority of this hashtag's com-

munity was toxic, there were many that saw it as an attempt to inspire Snyder to come back and make the movie he originally wanted.

The Snyder Cut for years was nothing but conspiracy theories — until it wasn't. Last year, Warner Brothers announced the Snyder Cut was a reality and was to be released exclusively on HBO Max. Recutting footage was shot back in 2016, bringing the cast back for reshoots and \$70 million later — the Snyder cut was released to the world.

This whole ordeal appeared to be an overly expensive attempt to polish a turd. It seemed impossible this film would turn out well. When it was revealed the cut was to be four, yes four, freaking hours long, I was expecting nothing but a trainwreck shot in super slow motion.

I went in expecting mostly the same movie with a bunch of bonus deleted scenes thrown in, but I was wrong. This cut felt entirely like a different movie and a much better one at that.

Sure, the movie is veer on being a complete overindulgent monstrosity, but it is so very refreshing to see a movie that knows exactly what it is and what it wants to be. Before the movie even starts, it's about to be a deep dive into Snyder's creative mind.

"This film is presented in a 4:3 format to preserve the integrity of Zach Snyder's creative vision," the opening text reads. A strange decision at first but one that quickly grew on me.

The film is no masterpiece — but it's a director getting the opportunity to make a movie exactly the way they wanted, which these days so rarely happens.

The Snyder cut can best be de-

scribed as decadent. Everything is so dark, gritty and dramatic. Slow motion shots, a staple of Snyder's work, are so abundant it almost becomes a parody of itself, but never dips into the realm of monotony.

Did we really need to see Lois Lane exit the coffee shop in slow-motion? Certainly not, but that's what "Zach's creative vision" called for and that's exactly what we got.

The biggest shock of this movie is truly just how well it all fits together. For as dark and moody as the movie presents itself, it has so much more heart and soul than the original cut of *Justice League* ever did. For however much Joss Weadon attempted to make the film more lighthearted and joke-y, the jokes never seemed to land; the Snyder cut, miraculously, is a lot more funny of a film.

Zach Snyder's *Justice League* is a good example of the key difference between plot and story. Where the plot of the film mostly follows the same beats and structure of the original, the story feels entirely different.

The character of Cyborg (Ray Fisher) relegated a little more than an empty macguffin in the original cut, but soon became the emotional soul of the story, whose character has the chance to live and breathe within the runtime and complete a satisfying arc. The main villain, Steppenwolf, one of the absolute worst comic book villains ever put on screen, is actually given something to do and has suddenly become a lot more compelling as the big bad.

The *Justice League* is meant to be a unified team, not disparate pieces. This cut places the focus far more on the team as a whole, which fits the story far better thematically. There is some excellent action on display, but



COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA FAIR USE

The *Justice League* returns with vigor. it's the characters movements that are true takeaways.

There's a lot of movies one can squeeze into four hours. So much is jam-packed into Zach Snyder's *Justice League* that I can't possibly touch on it all.

This movie certainly isn't for everyone. As a first viewing with no prior context, for what the film used to be, perhaps it isn't too special and for those who aren't into superheroes watching Zach Snyder's *Justice League* might be their own version of hell.

For all the praise I've given the film, it's far from flawless; but going in predicting an utter mess and coming out four hours later, expectations far exceeded will always make for a wonderful movie watching experience.



COURTESY OF SLASH FILM

The DC world takes a unique turn with Zach Snyder's unapologetic film.

HOROSCOPES

Scorpio



Hear me out:
YOU pay, THEY tip.



Sagittarius

Rumor has it if you wear
floral you'll immediately be
wearing floral.



Capricorn

Let's play a game called Does
She Like to Doodle or is That
a Stick-And-Poke Tattoo.

Aquarius



Cross Country, huh? So did
you make it across?

Pisces



If you win bingo, you will bring
prosperity to the nation.



Aries

Name me three songs by Vance Joy
that aren't Riptide.

Taurus



No Taurus, a 10 p.m. nap is not a
study break.



Gemini

New rule: no talking to men
between 3-5 p.m. Just for fun.

Cancer



She declined your follow request.
Again. I think it's time to give up.

Leo



This is your sign to go to a ran-
dom thrift store and pick out a
horrid outfit and wear it out.



Virgo

Decline the follow request. Again.



Libra

Congratulations on washing your
hair! See you in 3-4 business days.

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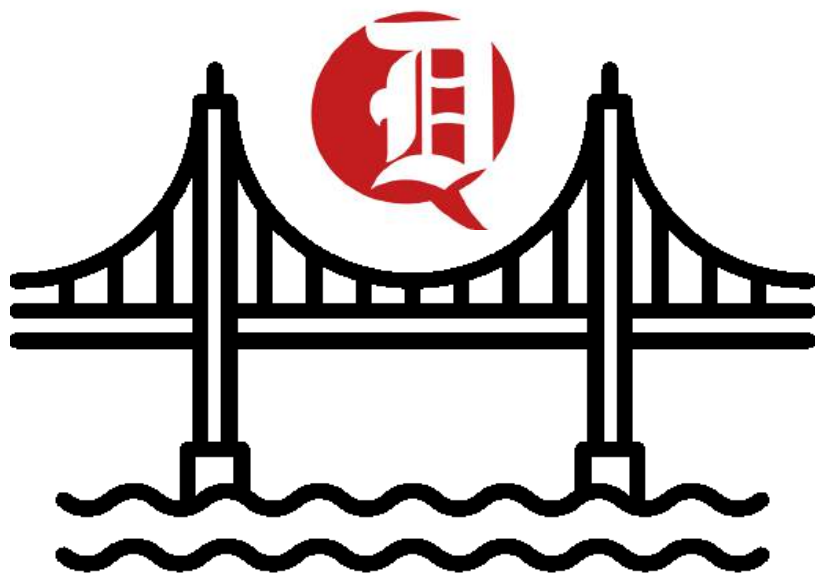
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From the Cover

By Griffin Sendek

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Model: Anita Parrott



Op-Ed: A trend is not worth the waste

By Peyton Harris

Fashion has greatly evolved over the last century, and even more so in the last 50 years, thanks to industrialization and the introduction of new textile materials. One newer aspect of fashion, known as fast fashion, is defined by the Oxford English Dictionary as “inexpensive clothing produced rapidly by mass-market retailers in response to the latest trends.”

While fast fashion can be easily made and marketed for consumers, the impact it has on the industry and the environment will long outlast the clothing’s shelf-life, and likely ourselves.

One thing that was here long before us and will be after — an invaluable resource that we all need — is water. Water accounts for everything we do: food, transport, and yes, clothing. According to the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, the fashion industry uses

over 21 trillion gallons of water each year. A single pair of denim jeans bought at a store such as H&M can use well over 2,000 gallons of water, according to a United Nations report.

While these stats alone show an excessive amount of water usage, what’s more egregious is how companies producing these articles of fast fashion clothing dispose of their spent water. Take that pair of denim jeans from H&M for example: Once the denim is constructed into the pair of jeans, it is continually dipped into synthetic indigo dyes to achieve the desired color for the style of jeans. Once the dyeing is complete, finishing — the process where chemicals are laid over to achieve the desired texture — uses even more water with added chemicals to complete the piece.

There are thousands of gallons of used water that companies wish to not use again, but what can they do with it? The most likely result is that these companies,

whose factories are often based in Asian countries like China, the Philippines and Bangladesh, use their weak environmental laws as an excuse to pour this water into nearby waterways and rivers.

Expand the scope of the problem to the entire fashion industry’s excessive water use, and you can see the alarming problem being raised around the world. While the fashion industry consumes and pollutes trillions of gallons of water, there are still millions that go without access to clean drinking water — and that number is growing.

Once water is discharged from a factory, that water seeps into the groundwater, contaminating whole drinking supplies. It also contaminates irrigation channels, and food products have now been found to have parts of synthetic chemicals in them, introducing plastics into the very food we eat.

H&M, a company known for its low-cost, easy-care clothes, is a large market for fast fashion pro-

ducers, along with brick-and-mortar stores like Forever21 or online markets like ASOS, Zara and Shein. While the clothing bought at these stores comes at a low cost to consumers, the toll its production takes on the areas where it is produced is horrifying. Reports of black rivers in Bangladesh, gastrointestinal issues and multi-pronged health rates are soaring in people who worked in Chinese chemical factories dyeing clothes; to name a few, they have been coming to light in recent years.

These large corporations, rather than individuals, are to blame for the environmental impacts of fast fashion, according to Rebecca Ulinski, a freshman at Duquesne.

“Basically fast fashion is a problem because it’s so easily accessible and so poorly manufactured,” Ulinski said. “But you really can’t place the blame for destruction on individual people, but on the big companies that keep those businesses in place.”

Now that studies have taken

place, governments, corporations and consumers have begun to enact change. China’s Ministry for Environmental Protection cracked down in 2017 on companies flouting environmental laws and imposed taxes on higher polluting companies. Bangladesh has begun implementing laws as well in an attempt to lower the rates of water discharge into local drinking and crop supplies. Private companies, like H&M and Levi’s, are enacting changes in-house to their production methods, and are acting to root out any suppliers that go around environmental policies.

Fashion is a great thing — it can inspire design and change. However, it can also be a detriment to the society and world that it affects. Until companies and governments enact laws that force companies to change, it is up to consumers to shop ethically to determine whether this month’s newest fad belongs in their closet or not.

Beauty on Demand

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By Gillian Fitzgerald

◀ Continued from page 4

York, Washington D.C., Los Angeles and Chicago. But as their business continues to grow in Pittsburgh and Miami, Grant and James plan to concentrate on these markets for the next few months to better understand the needs of their customers and show the community a reason to invest in this Black-owned business.

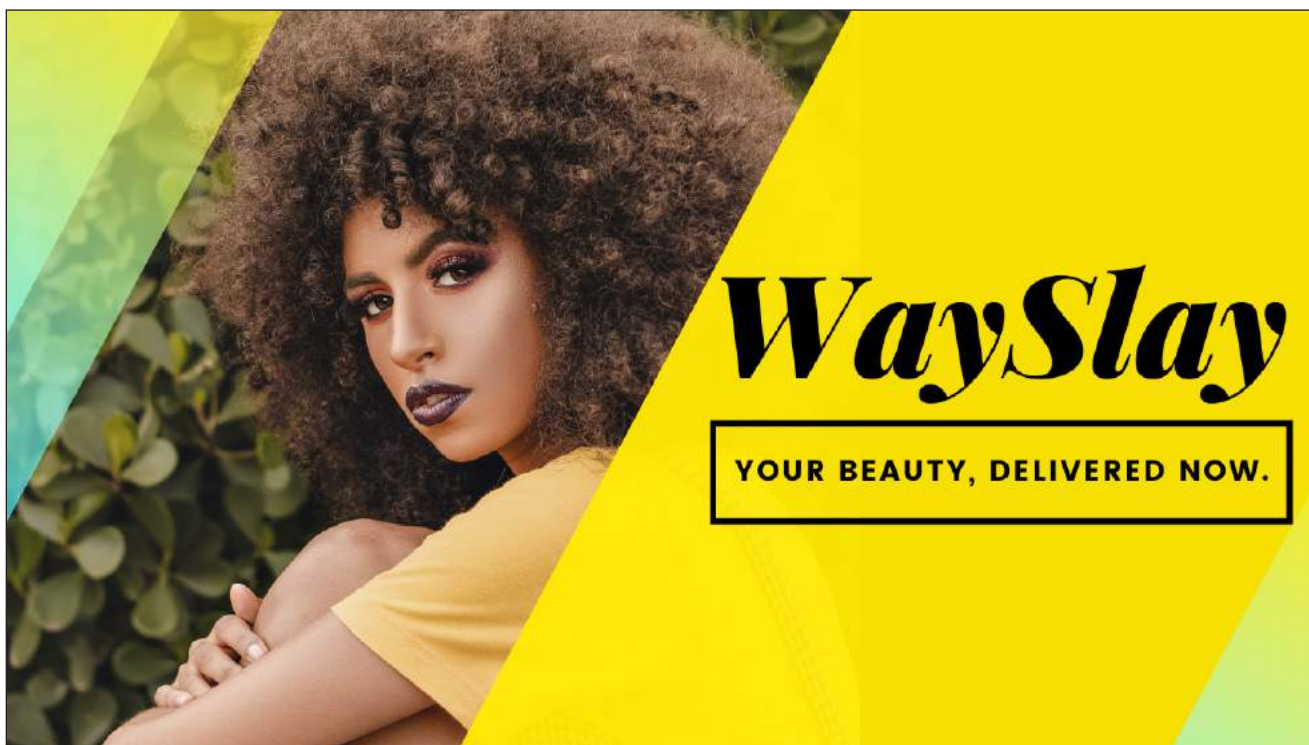
“It’s very important to invest in the Black community. Looking at WaySlay itself, the fact that something like this didn’t exist before we created it ... It’s things like this where you get to invest in the community. That’s something we’re trying to help fulfill, but also working with small businesses, we’re trying to build them up and keep the playing field level,” James said.

“Everyone has different unique needs when it comes to beauty,” Grant added. “Which is why these beauty supply stores remain relevant and so being able to build something for a large group of people who are being ignored or looked over. Black people account for 1/5 sales but we only represent 13% of the overall population. And when you look at that data, you’re greatly surprised why this hasn’t been created a while ago, and that’s the beauty of what we’re doing.”

“Women of color are trendsetters and main consumers that are often left out of the conversation,” LaBarrie said.

Besides being the only app that can fulfill those needs and deliver products in a short time, WaySlay is unique for its partnerships with retailers in the area who, too, get overlooked. Rather than competing with them, they help them grow by providing technological assistance and a wider audience of customers.

“They tend to be entrepreneurs that often are of



COURTESY OF WAYSLAY

WaySlay, dubbed as the “Uber Eats of beauty supplies,” partners with local businesses to deliver beauty products through its app and website.

of an immigrant myself — my dad coming from Jamaica who also started his own business — for us to be able to support them to make sure that they remain the center and source of where beauty supplies are coming from.”

Small beauty supply stores face the challenge of competing against large retail stores, especially during the pandemic, so WaySlay supports them, keeps them relevant and allows them to grow their reach. Their goal is to also have other software products available to provide stores with resources, such as easy access to trends and ways to improve inventory management. Helping retailers embrace technological improvements through an easy-to-use app and direct training creates a positive experience with WaySlay.

Currently, WaySlay is partnered with Yerimahs Sisters Beauty Supply Store in Downtown and Hair City in Monroeville to bring these products to their consumers through instant delivery. The two co-founders hope to partner with more suppliers in the city and see the growth of their local connections as well.

“Everyone has different unique needs when it comes to beauty,” Grant said.

And with the technological boom that occurred from COVID, retailers and consumers of a variety of ages are embracing delivery, a positive impact the pandemic had on WaySlay. The timing of their company was helpful for their growing success, and Grant and James are excited to see what WaySlay will accomplish for both customers and retail partners throughout the future.

Whether WaySlay delivers to a college student or

a mom who can’t bring her kids to the store, their purpose remains the same: confidence for their consumers and support for small businesses.

“Whatever it is that they need to do, they’re gonna look good — they’re gonna feel good,” James said.

“We want our customers to feel good. So, we are bringing them the beauty products that are going to help them have confidence throughout their day, throughout their tasks, throughout their job,” James said. “Whatever it is that they need to do, they’re gonna look good — they’re gonna feel good.”



color, and/or they have migrated to the U.S. from another country, and this is them taking their future in their own hands and having their own business,” Grant said. “That, to me, is so great as a son

Slay