Masses attend Mass of the Holy Spirit

MARY LIZ FLAVIN
NEWS EDITOR

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In previous years, the mass was held in either the chapel, Palumbo Center or the Convention Center. This year, students, families and faculty members flooded the bleachers and the main floor of the new Field House as they took their seats. Above the jumbotron that showcased the podium where Bishop David Allen Zubik along with other members of Duquesne campus ministry were standing, were students from the Mary Pappert School of Music who played various songs that accompanied the mass.

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Rough roads ahead for commuter students

from BUILD—page 1

Students, families and staff get file into the UPMC Cooper Field House to begin the Mass of the Holy Spirit.

Construction workers block off the area to make sure cars don’t get in the way of their work area.

Stay up to date on more campus construction alerts and road closures, check out duqsm.com

Singing the praises of a new year, new space

from MASS—page 1


Emily O'Donnell, a sophomore lacrosse player, felt happy and ready to start the year right at Duquesne after attending the mass.

"I thought the mass was a great experience and it was great seeing most of the athletic teams together. It affected me by making me happy and feeling ready to start the year here at Duquesne with a spiritual outlook which was refreshing," said O'Donnell.

Another student, Tony Caribino shared that same sentiment.

Caribino assisted in the mass as an usher. His duties included handing out programs, interacting with mass participants and directing them to receive communion. He found that Bishop Zubik’s homily had a profound impact on him. The content of the homily dealt with various questions that students had coming into the fall semester.

“I was surprised by the Bishop’s homily because a lot of the questions he posed were ones that I had been reflecting on for my studies, will I fit in, to the questions people ask themselves about their faith.”

Zubik also mentioned the seal of Duquesne and underneath is an inscription that says spiritus est qui vivificat which translates to it is the spirit who gives life.

The mass continued on with the communion followed by more singing until the mass slowly came to the end. Before it came to a close, President Ken Gormley gave a small speech welcoming students into the new school year.

“As we forge forward with patience, resilience, we remain committed to the health, safety, and well being of each member of this duquesne committee. We remain unfettered in our spiritual mission that Bishop Zubik talked about just as we have through nearly a century and a half through wars, unrest, and other earlier pandemic,” said Gormley.

POLICE BRIEFS

Thursday, Aug. 19 - Two students report that an older black male walked across assumption Commons to the front of st. Ann Hall and removed a bicycle from the bike rack. The male rode away in the direction of stevenson street.

Saturday Aug. 21 - A student reported that someone scratched the word die on the front door of her room inside an llc.

Sunday Aug. 22 - DUPS dispatched to St Ann Hall for an odor of marijuana inside room 408 E. Four Duquesne University resident male students were inside the room and two vapers with THC were confiscated during an administrative search. All four students referred to the University student conduct.

To drive out of the parking garage and get to the Birmingham Bridge,” said Ryan Berger, a senior nursing major.

The work is being done in preparation for the bus system’s $230 million project, which will create exclusive bus lanes between Oakland and Downtown.

For the PWSA, the project is anticipated to be completed by May 2022. So far, the water company has finished 60% of the water main installation, with only approximately 10% of the service line replaced.

“We want to replace and remove aging infrastructure ahead of their project as we do not want to disrupt the Port Authority’s work in the future due to an emergency repair. This is also an opportunity to find and replace any lead service lines that are attached to the old water main and replace them with a non-lead material,” said Mora McLaughlin, the construction communications project manager for PWSA.

Along with the PWSA’s efforts to stop issues before the BRT project, other utility companies such as Duquesne Light and Peoples Gas have joined in to replace underground infrastructure.

Looking into the future, water main construction on Forbes Avenue from Diamond Street to Pride Street is nearly complete. Work will continue at the intersection on Stevenson Street for a little longer. No official timeline was given.

On Fifth Avenue, the PWSA is installing the new water main from Washington Place to Sixth Avenue, which will then move into connecting it to the system and replacing the lines. This process is expected to last another several weeks.

For commuter students and staff, construction on Forbes Avenue from Chatham Square to Birmingham Bridge will be in effect on weekdays from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. Work from Chatham Square to Diamond Street will occur at night on weekdays from 8 p.m. - 6 a.m.

All work on Fifth Avenue will be done from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. Going into the weekend, work will continue by the Birmingham Bridge on Wyandotte and Mount Street Streets, but the PWSA is working with the city to accommodate community events.

“We’ll restore any excavated areas, sidewalk or street, with temporary restoration that will be smooth enough for pedestrians and cars. The final road restoration will be completed as part of the future Port Authority project,” said McLaughlin.

But don’t get too comfortable when the PWSA finishes their construction next year, because the BRT project will begin soon after.

COVID-19 NUMBERS

SCAN HERE FOR COVID-19 DATA

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

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Mary Liz Flavin | News Editor

Duke
The Association for Information Systems at Duquesne, AIS, is all about connecting students with network opportunities through meetings, networking events and fundraisers. Duquesne’s chapter is a part of a larger organization that provides students from all over with information about the business world and how to get in contact with those who can help them with their future careers.

Previously, AIS was known as the Duquesne Association for Information Technology, DAIT. In 2013, the group was re-named the Association for Information Systems at Duquesne. Students took the initiative to both change the name and make it a chapter of the international organization, The Association for Information Systems.

Roberto Laporte, President of the Association for Information Systems, encourages all students to join the association not only to gain benefits such as acquiring an added skill set, the ability to provide insightful feedback, becoming a highly valued employee, and learning programs that will aid them in the future, but it also helps in connecting to other students with the same interest.

“It is beneficial from a social aspect but also a networking perspective, opening the doors to opportunity and connecting with industry relevant employers,” Laporte said.

A future goal for the organization is to build on it and have it become a part of the school in hopes that students can take a deeper look at what it is all about. According to Laporte, a lot of work has gone into this process in hopes of making it easier for those who want to learn more about the software and programs that are utilized.

AIS is made up of six officers, president Roberto Laporte, senior vice president Megan Ashlinan, treasurer Marc Pelkinton, secretary Jake Reily, vice president of social events Rachel O’Neill, and vice president of technology Akanksha Evatt. It is also made up of two faculty advisors, Jacqueline Pike and Pinar Ozturk, both of whom are Information Systems and Technology professors in the School of Business at Duquesne, and also student members.

The association is completely student-run and has monthly meetings followed by one big event each semester. During these big speed networking events, alumni and their fellow co-workers come back to interact with students and help them learn what it takes to be successful in the real world.

“When I took over in 2013, my goal was to say that all of it was student run and I’m happy to say that it is. It’s what makes them so successful. I wanted to give them that opportunity for a learning experience,” Pike said.

AIS won the Outstanding Fundraising and Fiscal Responsibility Award for the 2019-2020 school year. Part of the organization’s responsibilities is that the students have to publish a report that includes their professional business events, programs, and fundraising activities. It is something they prepare all year until the finalized report is submitted in May.

“The more that you’re doing on the meetings and events they hold and how the report is presented, but also on their financial responsibility and management of organization income and spending.

The first meeting for AIS will be held on September 9th and the organization will have a table at the upcoming student expo.

“In addition, the Department for Information Systems and Technology located in the Palumbo Donahue School of Business, recently revised the information systems management major. The new name of the major is information systems and technology and it includes two tracks: data analytics and digital business technology. Students who are in this major are encouraged to pick one of the two tracks, in some cases they choose both.

Information systems facilitates the storage and retrieval of data to provide and enforce structure in order to convey context in various relationships.

It is recommended that students in the business school take these courses regardless of their major or minor because it gives them a background in technology usage as well as an understanding in how to analyze the data that businesses have acquired. It gives students a more in depth knowledge of the process.

According to Pike, information systems and technology is business at its core. The major is a blend of three things: people, business processes, and technology. Students are the bridge between people that need technology to accomplish something and the people who understand the technology.

Marketing major Abby Mele agrees that information systems and technology is an important component in the core curriculum as an understanding of technology as well as data analysis is essential to succeed.

“I think basic ISM courses are necessary even for me because in the business world it does not matter what you’re doing you cannot escape analyzing data,” Mele said.
DU football set for early-season tests

Jerry Schmitt’s Dukes are set to take on two FBS opponents, including a Power 5 clash with TCU, to kick off its 2021 campaign. The early-season schedule is set to prepare Duquesne for its NEC slate following a title-game loss to Sacred Heart during last spring’s truncated season.

After finishing in the top three of the Northeast Conference standings every year since 2015, the Duquesne football team might have a subtle edge over conference foes this season. Why?

For the Dukes, the season starts with back-to-back matchups with Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) opponents. Duquesne will travel to Fort Worth, Texas, to meet TCU on Sept. 4 before heading to Athens, Ohio, for a match with Ohio on Sept. 11.

Should anyone expect Duquesne to win either of these games? Probably not.

Per ESPN’s Football Power Index, the Dukes have just a 4.8% chance to knock off the Bobcats in their second game. In their opening game, Duquesne is given just a 0.5% chance to knock off the Big 12 Conference stalwart.

So, what can a smaller, FCS-level program like Duquesne gain from games like these?

For starters, it provides a great opportunity for rostered players to get noticed and get more exposure than they typically would.

The games will be streamed on both ESPN+ and ESPN3. The popular streaming services, coupled with larger viewing audiences, serve as portals that will allow Duquesne players to be recognized more easily if they were to have a notable game.

It also provides a chance for the Dukes to get familiar with top-tier competition. In 2018, Duquesne also played two road games against FBS opponents: Massachusetts and Hawaii. The Dukes lost by scores of 63-15 and 42-21, respectively, but won the NEC regular-season title and advanced to the second round of the FCS Playoffs.

While Duquesne would certainly not be expected to win, under most circumstances, against an FBS opponent, playing such quality opponents might be the key ingredient that puts them over the rest of the NEC at season’s end.

It is worth noting that the Dukes are not alone in this type of scheduling. Central Connecticut, who won the 2019 NEC regular-season title, will get a similar opportunity when they head south to battle Atlantic Coast Conference member Miami (FL) on Sept. 25.

This isn’t something Duquesne is planning on doing for just this season. Between 2022 and 2026, the team is currently scheduled to take on six more FBS opponents: Air Force, Coastal Carolina, Florida State, Hawaii, Toledo and West Virginia.

All of these games, as expected, are scheduled to take place away from Rooney Field. Why would Duquesne want to frequently travel great distances to play road games, games in which they are almost always the overwhelming underdog?

Duquesne is participating in what are commonly referred to as “guarantee games.” This is a game in which a higher-level program signs a contract with a smaller-level program, guaranteeing to pay them a certain amount of money to play the game. The amount is expected to cover the costs for hotels, food and travel during the trip.

Combine that monetary gain with the opportunity to grow the recognition of one’s players and program, and many athletic directors agree to schedule guarantee games for their school.

Jerry Kutz of The Osceola, a website dedicated to covering Florida State athletics, examined the logic behind Duquesne and Florida State agreeing to play each other during the 2022 season in a Feb. 2021 article.

Kutz notes that Florida State will pay $400,000 to host the Dukes. While that might not seem like much when one considers the costs necessary to accommodate hotel rooms, food and travel costs for an entire football roster, playing multiple games of similar fashion annually over a multiple-year period should provide Duquesne with a financial boost.

Additionally, while guarantee games are typically guaranteed to be a win for the team paying a large sum of money, this isn’t always the case. Perhaps the most notable example of this came in 2007, when fifth-ranked Michigan paid $400,000 to host Appalachian State, the top-ranked FCS school in the country.

Appalachian State stunned Michigan in a 34-22 victory, and this win had a direct effect on the growth of the school’s national recognition. The school transitioned to the FBS level in 2014.

While these games often have a similar outcome, cases like Appalachian State will always exist.

In all likelihood, Duquesne will start the season with two consecutive losses. That’s just the nature of the beast.

At the end of the day, however, the games still need to be played. The possibility of catching either TCU or Ohio, if not both, on a bad day will still exist. The opportunities sit right in front of the Dukes.

Regardless of the final scores, Duquesne will come out on top financially, in addition to having multiple chances to grow their program and player exposure on a larger scale.
**Polanco remains with Pirates after brief waiver stint**

**Brentaro Yamane**
staff writer

Shortly after Gregory Polanco went 1-for-3 in Sunday’s road loss against the St. Louis Cardinals, the Pittsburgh Pirates wasted no time in putting him on outright waivers.

Despite the quick swing of events on Sunday, Polanco had not yet been claimed by first pitch on Monday, so he remained in the team’s starting lineup for a home contest with the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Polanco went 0-for-4 with three strikeouts in the Pirates’ 6-5 victory.

Come Tuesday, Polanco had officially cleared waivers and remained on the team’s active roster. All 29 other teams had a chance to claim Polanco, but none did.

He did not start in Tuesday’s 4-2 victory, but came off the bench as a pinch hitter. He registered a single in his only plate appearance.

At season’s end, the ball is in the court of general manager Ben Cherington, who has the opportunity to exercise or decline Polanco’s team option for the 2022 season, thus determining whether Polanco will remain with the franchise where he’s spent all eight years of his big-league career.

This was a floater move by the Pirates. They reportedly wanted to give Polanco the opportunity to be claimed by a post-season contender prior to the Aug. 31 roster deadline. After Aug. 31, players can be acquired by teams via the waiver wire, but are ineligible to be added to the team’s post-season roster come October.

Simultaneously, the Pirates were trying to shed the remainder of Polanco’s owed salary (about $2.1 million) for this season by allowing a team who would claim him to take on that salary.

They were unsuccessful in such a move, as no team felt it necessary to take a chance on a 29-year-old outfielder with a .199 batting average and a well-documented injury history.

In just past four years, Polanco has suffered from setbacks such as a dislocated shoulder, a left hamstring strain and even a positive Covid test during the 2020 season. Regardless of these ailments, in addition to his struggle to produce at a consistent pace, Polanco has always managed to come back and have an upbeat attitude, showcasing his authentic love for the game.

There was lots of hype surrounding Polanco when he made his MLB debut in 2014. He recorded a hit in his first game and produced a five-hit game (including a go-ahead, extra-inning home run) in just his first week in the big leagues.

Struggles became apparent within his first few months, however, and he was optioned to the minor leagues to straighten things out. He played well enough to make it back to the major league roster by season’s end, but was not the starter in right field when the Pirates were defeated by the San Francisco Giants in the 2014 NL Wild Card Game.

Since then, Polanco has failed to simultaneously stay healthy and be a constant offensive threat. His best season came in 2018, when he hit 23 home runs and recorded 81 RBIs. However, on Sept. 7, Polanco dove into second base and dislocated his shoulder, forcing him to miss the remainder of that season and a good chunk of the 2019 campaign.

Things have never truly been the same. In just 157 at-bats across a truncated 2020 season, Polanco struck out 65 times, while registering just 13 extra-base hits.

Entering play on Wednesday, Polanco had just 65 hits across 326 at-bats in 2021. By comparison, he’s struck out 101 times. Several ex-Pirates, including Gerrit Cole, Starling Marte and Tyler Glasnow, have recently enjoyed successful campaigns in other teams’ uniforms; it’s not a regular occurrence for a Pirate to spend their entire career with the franchise. Polanco is the only player that remains on the roster from the 2015 team, the last team to make it to the postseason.

In just six years, the franchise has had that much roster overhaul. In all likelihood, Polanco may be one of the next moves in the aforementioned overhaul that is still ongoing.

While anything is possible, placing Polanco on waivers is a crystal-clear signal that the Pirates are just about ready to move on from him. Never players and prospects are becoming ready to fill the void ‘El Coffee’ is leaving behind after nearly a decade’s worth of inconsistency.

With outfield prospects like Hoy Park, Matthew Fraizer, Travis Swaggerty and Hudson Head on the way, Polanco’s opportunities are dwindling by the day.

With a little over a month of games yet to be played, the Pirates can use the remainder of the schedule to test out players — like Polanco — to see if they have any value for the franchise moving forward as the team prepares to enter its next era of contention.

Alas, it seems as if Polanco’s chance to prove himself in Pittsburgh will be nearing its inevitable end within the coming weeks.

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**DU women’s soccer starts season with two-goal victory**

**Luke Henne**
sports editor

After a spring 2021 campaign that saw the Duquesne women’s soccer team win just one of its first seven games, it was essential to start the fall season on the right note.

The Dukes did just that, besting Saint Francis (Pa.) by a 3-1 score in a non-conference meeting at Rooney Field on Sunday afternoon.

The win marked Duquesne’s first in a season-opening game since 2015, when they defeated crosstown rival Robert Morris.

Members of the DU women’s soccer team celebrate following a goal during its season-opening victory over Saint Francis on Sunday. The 3-1 win was the first in a season opener for the Dukes since 2015.

Did You Know?

Sunday’s clash with Saint Francis (Pa.) marked the 10th all-time meeting between the two programs at Rooney Field. Duquesne boasts a 9-1 record in those matchups.

With the victory, Duquesne snatched its streak of five straight season-opening losses, while also extending its winning streak over Saint Francis to six games.

Duquesne outshot Saint Francis by a 19-6 mark (12-4 in shots on goal). Jazmín Arcejo led the Dukes with seven shots (five on goal).

The Dukes will seek to start this season the same way they ended last season: by winning two consecutive games. They’ll get the chance to achieve that feat when they host Valparaiso at Rooney Field Friday evening.
"Picklesburgh" traditional festival celebrates food, fun

Emma Polen | Layout Editor

Sophomore Allison Covert poses with her Physicians’ Assistant student, Kylie Nucitelli, a second-year turned museum. street from the old Heinz factory. Ed. tion takes place just down the three-day-long pickle celebration.

However, Pittsburghers never forget how much they love pickles. Another pickle-pairing event is Picklesburgh, an event that takes place every summer in the city's North Shore. Picklesburgh was started in 2015, but the Pittsburgh community has been serving the world pickles for much longer. H.J. Heinz began his business in canned goods in the 1860s. Since then, Heinz' products have expanded.

Picklesburgh began in 2015, but the Pittsburgh community has been serving the world pickles for much longer. H.J. Heinz began his business in canned goods in the 1860s. Since then, Heinz' products have expanded.

Sophomore Nina Merkle, attends Picklesburgh without a passion for pickles. Another performer acts.

Heinz’ products have expanded. According to their website, occurring through their new vaccination policy. to protect their cast, crew and audience is hard to ignore Pittsburgh’s creativity. Picklesburgh has a unique way of bringing the community together over something as random as pickles,” Nucitelli said.

As random as pickles may be, the creativity of Picklesburgh has twice earned it the title of “1 Specialty Food Festival in the Country” by USA Today readers in its six-year past.

Some Pittsburghers, like Duquesne secondary education sophomore Nina Merkle, attend Picklesburgh without a passionate devotion for pickles. Another perk of this food festival is that it does not only serve pickled delicacies, but also a variety of other cultural foods from city vendors.

Merkle’s favorite food at the festival was Polish vendor Gosia’s Pierogies. Each order had the option to mix and match among a variety of flavors, including sauerkraut and bacon potato. In addition to pierogies, festivals-goers could also head to a candy booth, two fudge booths and cultural food booths that smelled delicious (and not pickle-y).

After trying the food, visitors could head to one of the pickle merchandise booths where they may purchase pickle earrings, socks, stickers, magnets or their very own pickle balloon. Live music performed by local bands provided additional entertainment. Every Picklesburgh celebration also features free Heinz pickle pins, which serve as perfect memento of this strangely rewarding day in the high heat of August.

Another popular part of Picklesburgh is their selection of pickle-themed beverages. At Grandpa Joe’s Candy Shop, people could purchase a bright green cream soda for only a few dollars. Goodlander Cocktail Brewery served up dill pickle hard lemonade, raspberry shrub, and one cocktail that boasted an array of rainbow pickles. Wigle Whiskey also made an appearance with fan-favorite Eau de Pickle spirit. Xxavier Sciarretta, a freshman pharmacy student, was actually disappointed he could not participate more in the taste-testing and booth-hopping involved in Picklesburgh: “I couldn’t do a lot of it since I’m not 21.”

While there are plenty of booths to visit for the young or Picklesburgh-goers, pickle-based alcoholic beverages are definitely a main attraction for older visitors.

With the giant pickle flying high over the Andy Warhol Bridge, it was hard to ignore Pittsburgh’s history last weekend. With a community rooted strongly in their unique and subjectively delicious tradition, Pittsburgh shares its pickle pride with newcomers and native city-dwellers alike.

New Benedum vaccination policy marks start of season

Rio Scarcelli | Staff Writer

This summer began Pittsburgh’s cultural reawakening as performing arts centers hosted outdoor shows and events following CDC guidelines. Pittsburgh Cultural Trusts’ new plan is to take the entertainment back onto the stage for the 2021-22 season.

“I felt like not having that same cultural experience when coming to Pittsburgh was a detriment,” said sophomore music education major Abby Hill. “Part of looking at schools was the excitement of the area around me to be able to see shows and other performances, so I felt like I missed out during that time.”

Many people, including Hill, found alternatives to seeing a typical show such as concerts in the park or limited-performer acts.

Venues within the Pittsburgh Cultural District are taking the charge to protect their cast, crew and audience through their new vaccination policy. According to their website, occurring attended Picklesburgh for the first time this year. This event can be intense for some newcomers, but Nucitelli said, “If that is what the Pittsburgh vibe is then I am absolutely in love with it.”

Nucitelli is not originally from the Pittsburgh area. Picklesburgh was truly her first impression of the Pittsburgh community since her freshman year was restricted by Covid-19. Really, nothing says Pittsburgh cultural reawakening as per his summer began Pittsburgh’s pickle pride with newcomers and native city-dwellers alike.

“Pittsburgh is then I am absolutely in love with it.”

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New Benedum vaccination policy marks start of season

Rio Scarcelli | Staff Writer

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“I felt like not having that same cultural experience when coming to Pittsburgh was a detriment,” said sophomore music education major Abby Hill. “Part of looking at schools was the excitement of the area around me to be able to see shows and other performances, so I felt like I missed out during that time.”

Many people, including Hill, found alternatives to seeing a typical show such as concerts in the park or limited-performer acts.

Venues within the Pittsburgh Cultural District are taking the charge to protect their cast, crew and audience through their new vaccination policy. According to their website, occurring attended Picklesburgh for the first time this year. This event can be intense for some newcomers, but Nucitelli said, “If that is what the Pittsburgh vibe is then I am absolutely in love with it.”

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Lorde's "Solar Power" shines light on self-growth

CAPRI SCARCELLI
a&c editor

O h my Lorde: Lorde is back and better than ever. For the first time in four years, Lorde gave herself the “green light” for producing new music since her 2017 studio release, Melodrama. Away from media and Earth’s dark corners, the New Zealand pop singer tucked herself away in her home town to find solace in self-love, in peace and in song.

Thus came three sunshine-singles to hold us over for the August 20 release of Solar Power — a compilation of pure happiness we have never seen before from her typically raw, emotional storytelling.

Since Lorde is always taking her fans through a road of social commentary and dots of adversity, it only makes sense to lighten the tone and show her growth over the years.

That means the best way to do this is to go track-by-track.

The first song, “The Path,” actually sets the scene for the entirety of the album, starting with a low hum and quiet harmonies that meld into a bigger picture, like light creeping through a window. Crooning “been millionaire having nightmares from the camera flash” to “now if you’re looking for a savior, well that’s not me,” Lorde highlights her past as a kind of pain she couldn’t always push away. Though partway through, she ushers in the phrase “let’s hope the sun will show us the path,” as a way of reconciling with her past and pushing forward in a new breath and a new light.

With that, the singer transitions into her second track — the album’s namesake and corresponding first single, “Solar Power.” This song took to social media kindly, becoming a quaint summer anthem for many as well as a trend on TikTok. This beachy, free-loving, media kindly, becoming a quaint summer piece seemed to illuminate a care-free world that Lorde has welcomed us too, dipping our toes to sunlight. As the first track she alludes to her stage name not bathing in sunlight. Whereas in the first track she carries with; a song where we can move with the rhythm of life and feel like a modern lament in waltz. This track, “California,” gives listeners more background on what fame looks like on-screen and how that translated for Lorde in real life. The first line “Once upon a time in Hollywood when Carole called my name/ I stood up, the room exploded/ and I knew that’s it, I’ll never be the same,” was an allusion to her first Grammy award in 2014 presented by Carole King — a surreal moment for the artist. From that point forward, however, Hollywood didn’t appear as shiny as it once seemed. The steady backbone and breathy vocals carry the story to the end quite rhythmically until it fades out to “It’s all just a dream... I wanna wake up.”

“Stoned at the Nail Salon” is another single released over the summer that had fans pleasantly surprised with a more mellow tone. This song goes through a series of existential crises revolving around the coming-of-age troubles such as love and loss, aging beauty and, of course, change. The song feels like a modern lament in waltz time, as she cries “cause all of the songs you loved at sixteen you grow out of,” drawing to her hit single, “Royals,” that many teenagers grew up with and moved on from. This song is a way of telling her past self that she is okay exactly where she is, and that there is nothing to be afraid of.

“Fallen Fruit” is very similar-sounding, starting off with the but with a lovely harmony line powering through with only a simple strumming to back it. Kicking in with the instruments about halfway through, it reminded me of something off of Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band: very psychedelic-sounding with an ethereal feel. Lorde sticks to her theme of using nature as a crutch for this album, while also tying the biblical allusion to the temptation of fame and fortune for a young, aspiring artist.

The sixth track, “Secrets from a Girl (Who’s Seen it All),” seems like a song that will eventually end up on the radio. It’s very laid-back with a steady percussion, catering to a matured audience who has been through the teenage nightmare and has lived to tell the tale. The song has a very hopeful tone, ending with a monologue of advice to her younger self and her fans. According to an interview with Spotify, this song was inspired by one of her earliest works, “Ribs,” where she then took those power chords and switched them around for the answers to the questions she asked herself as a young girl. This song is very cute and inspiring; it definitely exemplifies growth.

Transitioning to more of a ballad, “The Man with the Axe” is more somber than the other ones on this album, but according to Spotify Storyline, Lorde said it’s “one of [her] favorites.” This song gives a fairytale feel to some of the misconceptions we have about love when we are young, and how badly it hurts when it is taken away for the first time. It’s simplistic, but haunting like an old ghost story kept in the family. “Dominos” seems to bring the album out of the shadows again. Very light-hearted, Lorde sings of an ex-boyfriend who once treated her poorly, but is now doing better elsewhere for his new lover. Accepting her past, she sings “must feel good to be Mr. Start Again,” keeping the narrative short and sweet to move on to brighter things. It feels like an “oh okay whatever” kind of acceptance rather than wallowing in pity as her younger artistly has shown. This song in itself shows how much she has grown over the years more than anything.

“Big Star” is also a shorter piece, singing of the promises she was given as a young artist and how that turned out for her. “I used to love the party, now I’m not alright,” she sings about her rise in stardom and the challenges faced with that. This re-evaluation is a part of life, and she accepts that by the end of the song.

“Leader of a New Regime,” on the other hand, seems to bring everything back to that summer narrative that she began with. This seems to bring the narrative back to present time and beyond reflection. I think harmonically this is quite unique, with a tiny piano trill that playfully plays with the guitar strumming. (Which, by the way, is a perfect transition not only in the song itself, but collectively in the album to show the passing of time and the need to move on from past tribulations.)

The next song, “Mood Ring,” was another single released before the album dropped — and it is one of my favorites. It reminds me of that point in your life when you realize “so what now?” This song sort of dabbles in different modalities of self-care and spirituality that Lorde has experimented with in the past year or so, and her journey with that along the way. She jokes to herself “don’t you think the early 00s were so far away?“ reminiscing on a time where life didn’t require so much intentional time set aside for wellness and well-being. It’s experimental and really seems like a piece that speaks to current day with an older-generational sound.

Yet, we have “Oceanic Feeling,” which is a catchy piece with her staple of short-timed songs. This song felt like a ballad, approaching a new chapter and a new sense of calm for the life ahead. It seems to stand in solidarity with her past and our experiences as well, moving forward slowly but surely. It’s a final breath, a journey coming to an end, but not completely as she turns to the future and wonders what her own daughter may be like. You can feel some of that old tension slip away in this song with that comforting reassurance: “I know you’re scared, well so was I.” It’s a great song to put the windows down and drive away with; a song where we can move with the tides together.

Lorde’s story resonates with me more than I could imagine; we all carry our humanity differently, after all.

You can stream Lorde’s Solar Power on Spotify, Apple Music, YouTube and other corresponding services.

Horoscopes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scorpio</th>
<th>Sagittarius</th>
<th>Capricorn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Well isn’t that just the cherry on top?</td>
<td>She is beauty, she is grace, she is a sagittarius (that’s it).</td>
<td>Don’t sit in the bathroom stall for too long on break...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pisces</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Existentialism is your everyday thing, huh?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Want to... share a grilled chicken snack wrap with me?</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Aries</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Tree hugger? More like car hugger.</td>
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<td>Taurus</td>
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<tr>
<td>I know what you’re thinking, but DON’T SPOIL IT!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virgo</td>
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<td>Driving with the windows down in downtown construction is self-care.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leo</td>
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<tr>
<td>You are the plant mom. I can see it.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aquarius</td>
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<tr>
<td>Go ahead, buy that Old Navy skeleton onesie for the Phoebe concert. You’re totally stable.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gemini</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Yes, they did remember when you walked into the wrong class</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Libra</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Manifest it. No wait not that.</td>
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</table>

Past the coming-of-age narrative, pop sensation Lorde brings a new uplifting drive to her music.
“Big Brother” 23: the Cookout doesn’t deserve the hate

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T.
Colleen Hammond

time loop.

her to tell me a story she had
cited bedtime whisper.

Very quickly, she learned the

rules of engagement. I wanted

your mouth,” I begged in my ex

“Nanny, tell me stories from

a remedy. But I was insistent.

expertly packed for the trip as

books and toys my mother had

would look to an assortment of

In the earliest years, she

“Nanny, can you tell me a story?”

most important request of the

der my chin, I would pose my

would pull the covers up un

fall asleep almost instantly.

my sister and me

special times of the year. She

house was one of the most

ing visits to my grandmother's

ings.

detailing her many late-age ad

I was away at summer camp —

letters — often sent to me while

so she could watch

them puff up their cheeks; how

the tree I used to climb in her

front yard was blooming; and

my personal favorite) how her

her and her best friend Bernice ac

out for so she could watch

She told me all about the

Nanny was the first person to

As I grew older, Nanny’s be

bedtime stories turned

into frequent phone calls and

letters — often sent to me while

I was away at summer camp —

detailing her many late-age ad

ventures.

She told me all about the

chipmunks who lived under the

pato that she left red grapes

out for so she could watch

them puff up their cheeks; how

the tree I used to climb in her

front yard was blooming; and

(my personal favorite) how her

her and her best friend Bernice ac

identally ordered 80 chicken

 nuggets in the McDonald’s

drive-thru.

When my grandmother

passed away just weeks before I

started college, I had a very

child-like fear that the story

had ended. As many of us have

learned over the past year and

a half, death can be an unex

pected period at the end of a

sentence we thought was just

beginning.

While it’s been over three

years since her death, I still

find myself looking for a card

in her scrawled cursive hand-

writing in the mail on my

birthday every year.

But that’s the power of a great

storyteller.

For years, I thought she told

me these stories as a form of

entertainment, but in actual-

ity, she was preparing me for

the life she saw ahead of me.

For her, it was always about

more than the stories: it was about

the connection she made with me

and the bond it forged between us.

In telling me her stories, she

taught me storytelling is

more than a simple relaxing

of events. It is about listening

and being present for those

who have something they

need to say.

And I’d like to think it’s why

I’m here now, pursuing a ca

reer in journalism.

As a reporter, it’s my job —

above all else — to listen. I

once heard that Mother

Theresa of Calcutta used to
describe herself as a “pen-

cil in the hands of God.” I’m

far from a Mother Theresa

figure, but I think I’m a set

of ears for the people in this

community. I am one person,

and I am far too small to fix

all the daunting problems we

face today in the world.

But I can listen.

This campus is filled to

the brim with stories that reveal

the intricate complexities of our

community. And I am honored that I

got to be the one to hear and tell

those stories.

As someone who has felt

voiceless before, I want The

Duke to continue its tradition of

giving those in our commu-
nity who feel unseen and un-

heard the platform they need.

It is in telling our stories, hones-

ly and truthfully, that we

preserve our connection

with humanity.

I realize that most of us feel

we don’t have any stories to

tell from our time in the pan-

demic. We sat at home. We

attended Zoom meetings. We

worked. We struggled. We

slept. And we did it all again

the next day. We lived in some

variation of a hellish

Groundhog’s Day time loop.

Now, as we enter the next

phase of the pandemic time

warp, we have a rare opportu-
nity to use our collective sto-

ries as a way to heal each other

from the hardships we have

collectively endured since the

world shut down.

The best advice I’ve ever

heard about storytelling came

from the great playwright, di-

rector, screenwriter and ac-
tress Phoebe Waller-Bridge.

“Write like you’re not afraid,”

Waller-Bridge said at the end of

her book Fleabag: The Scrip-
tures. And I intend to do so.

So this year, please, tell

me a story.
In chess, a knight moves two spaces in one direction and one space in another — creating a pattern that no other piece can replicate.

At Duquesne University, a new chess club called “Chess Nights” partners chess players of all ages and abilities to create memories and stories — that no one else can replicate.

Chess Nights will start on Tuesday, Sept. 7th from 7 - 9 p.m. in room 119 of the Student Union and will continue every first and third Tuesday of each month thereafter. This community building effort is sponsored by the House of Life, the Elsinore-Bennu Think Tank for Restorative Justice (EBTT), the Pittsburgh Police Department and Duquesne’s Sociology Club.

“The goal of our community Chess Nights is to bridge cultural and generational divides by using chess as a dialogue,” said Dee Hubay, organizer and member of Chess Nights. “It brings together those from various backgrounds and ages for one common activity.”

The House of Life is a non-profit organization owned and operated by citizens returning from incarceration to help with re-entry adjustments and challenges. In this context, returned citizens refers to individuals who are returning or reentering society after incarceration.

The EBTT is a part of the House of Life which uses the success stories of its members to understand why they succeeded and how their journey can assist others who are re-entering society. The Think Tank includes returning citizens, students and faculty from various disciplines and universities, activists, artists, political leaders, police as well as prison and justice system employees and continues to meet weekly on campus at Duquesne.

“Chess is a beautiful game where individuals can meet over the board regardless of age or socio-economic background and engage in competition on a level playing field,” said Peter Booth, another organizer in the committee for Chess Nights at Duquesne. “It is important for us as students to be aware of our impact on the larger community that we inhabit and make sure that we can take part in some positive engagement in that space.”

When Hubay began working with the EBTT and returned citizens, she met 70-year-old Charlie Lewis. While working together, Lewis, of Carrick, taught her how to play chess. Lewis was unjustly sentenced to 30-71 years in prison for a non-violent first major offense. After 18 years, his sentencing was overturned after he proved a constitutional violation and was released from prison in 2004.

“Charlie later overturned his sentencing via a handwritten motion he had written 17 years prior, spending a total of 18 years incarcerated before proving a constitutional violation and being released,” Hubay said.

“It was in prison that Lewis learned how to play chess. “Then we started getting together a couple times each month to play and I invited a couple other friends to learn, and eventually realized this is something everyone might love,” Hubay said.

Hubay started getting together with friends informally to play chess with returned citizens, and they brought the idea for official chess nights to the Think Tank. She received support to create an event for all to learn and play chess.

“Chess is a fun way to bring people of all backgrounds together for a common and neutral cause,” Hubay said. “It opens the door for discussion and allows seemingly unrelated groups of people to find common ground.”

Looking forward, Hubay and the Think Tank wish to launch additional initiatives that address problems and issues with reentry after incarceration.

“In the future, we hope to launch more initiatives such as community cooking and different community-based actions that will address the key problems and challenges with reentry after incarceration,” Hubay said. “Chess Nights are targeted at helping returned citizens find acceptance and friendship in the community, whereas other initiatives can address other needs, such as learning to cook.”

Chess Nights are part of a larger “Building Bridges” initiative to create intergenerational communication and social and community connectedness. Building Bridges aims to facilitate the process of reentry, transition and self sufficiency for returned citizens.

“We believe that it is imperative to recognize that Duquesne University, being a campus in the middle of a diverse and dynamic city, is only a small part in our greater conurbation and we hope to connect with the people around us in a meaningful and positive way,” Booth said.

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Members of Chess Nights take a break from the board game and enjoy pizza.

Two members of the club, Chess Nights, ponder their next move.

Scan the above code to register for more information regarding Chess Nights.

Top Photo courtesy of Unsplash; bottom photos courtesy of Dee Hubay
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