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Student reports stranger assault

KELLEN STEPLER
features editor

A female student reported that she was a victim of indecent assault Tuesday afternoon, according to Duquesne University Public Safety (DUPS.)

On Aug. 31 at 4:30 p.m., the student reported that she was walking on Fifth Ave. at Chatham St. when an actor "physically grabbed her buttocks," committing the crime of indecent assault. The victim then fled the area and called DUPS to report the crime, according to the crime alert sent to all students Wednesday afternoon.

The report says that a "thorough check of the area was conducted by DUPS, but the actor had fled the area." A subsequent investigation of the crime revealed a video of the actor, who DUPS described as an African-American male, 40-50 years of age, approximately 5'10-6'0 in height, dark complexion, short hair and a short full beard. DUPS also said that the man "has an unusual gait while walking, appearing to hunch forward or possibly limp with left leg."

The man has not yet been identified. Students are advised to call DUPS at 412-396-2677 with any information regarding the crime, or if they see the individual. Students should not approach the actor, according to DUPS.

"Duquesne Public Safety is following up on some leads provided by members of the University community and is working with the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police to obtain additional evidence to identify the actor involved in the incident," Duquesne Media and Communications Manager Rose Ravasio said.

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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Flash floods warnings cause for concern

ZOE STRATOS
opinions editor

Pittsburgh loves the rain, but our roads and rivers couldn't handle the remnants of Hurricane Ida as showers poured down Wednesday morning. Ida won't rain on our parade much longer, as things are looking brighter as we move into the weekend — but drivers should use caution near our city's waterways.

The National Weather Service in Pittsburgh issued a flash flood warning until 12:15 p.m. Wednesday for much of the region, including all of Allegheny County.

"We're still seeing some streams and rivers rise as all that runoff moves in. Be sure if you're out and about driving to heed to any road closures, don't drive through any water that's over the road and turn around if you do see water flowing over the road," said Jared Rackley, a meteorologist with the NWS, said.

Combined with another front, the aftermath of Ida continued into the evening on Wednesday,



ANDREW CUMMINGS | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

The large amounts of rain have caused water to puddle over campus. Rain clouds pass overhead by McCloskey Field.

closing roads Downtown and around the city all day long.

Gov. Tom Wolf was joined by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) on Wednesday afternoon to provide an update on state agency response to remnants of Ida, warning drivers to steer clear of water covered roads.

The Commonwealth Response Coordination Center (CRCC) began 24-hour operations at 8 a.m. Wednesday with staffing from the following

agencies: departments of Environmental Protection, General Services, Health, Military and Veterans Affairs, Human Services and Transportation; Office of the Attorney General; Pennsylvania State Police; Fish and Boat Commission; Public Utility Commission; Turnpike Commission; American Red Cross and Civil Air Patrol.

The crews cleared debris and kept each other updated throughout the day on the status of different parts of the state.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation said at least five state roads in the region were closed Wednesday due to the storm's effects, including Route 51, Saw Mill Run Boulevard, in the city.

On Wednesday, three state roads in Shaler Township were flooded and closed.

Rainfall in the Downtown region reached approximately 4 inches from Tuesday to Wednesday, and areas like Mt. Lebanon reached as much as 5 inches.

Flooding rivers in the region are expected to crest starting Thursday afternoon and will be back to normal going into the weekend.

On campus, students trekked through puddles in front of College Hall and across Brotter, umbrellas in hand, to get to classes despite the storms.

Due to the inclement weather, the Student EXPO went virtual for the day, and the Volunteer Fair was moved to the

Union Ballroom.

"To meet with some of our 250 student organization and university departments, log-in to DORI and visit Campus Link," DUActivities said in an email to students. "Once on the Campus Link homepage, you should see an alert box with a link to the virtual EXPO."

But as the sun moves in on Thursday, the EXPO and Volunteer Fair will be back on A-walk for the last time this semester from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

In addition, some classes were moved to a virtual setting for the day due to the rain, including graduate assistant Anna Lampe's Introduction to Psychology course.

"I've decided to move class to Zoom today due to the flash flood warnings and the severe weather, as I know many of us are commuters, and it would be safest to stay home right now," Lampe wrote in an email to students.

No need to keep those umbrellas and waterproof jackets at the ready, the sun will come out soon for Pittsburgh.

"Looking at the radar right now, we have a few really light showers that are moving across the area, basically just light rain or drizzle. Once that scattered drizzle moves out of here, looking at the rest of the week we've got sun in the forecast and cooler temperatures. That's something to look forward to," Rackley said.



Wednesday, the Student EXPO got moved to online, but weather permitting it will resume again outside on Thursday, September 2.

POLICE BRIEFS

Saturday, Aug. 28 - A student consumed alcohol in conjunction with prescription medication. The student was transported to Mercy ER for evaluation and safety reasons. The student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Monday, Aug. 30- Duquesne Police were informed of a student reporting that she parked on the sixth floor of the Locust Garage and another vehicle tried to park in the space next to her and struck her vehicle. The operator then backed up and left the area, causing minor damage to her vehicle.

COVID-19 NUMBERS

SCAN HERE FOR COVID-19 DATA



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EMAIL TIPS

We want your input!

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

Campus transportation guidelines take the "spin" out of new electric scooters



Electric scooter guideline prohibits electric scooters from Duquesne's campus due to heavy pedestrian traffic and other safety reasons.

Duquesne works with city to create no ride zone

GIAVANNA ALTMAYER
staff writer

Clear the sidewalks and check the bike lane: the electric scooter craze has descended upon Pittsburgh. As motorists cruise across the city, scooter use on campus has come to a grinding halt.

According to the parking guidelines located on Duquesne's website, "Duquesne has for several years expressly prohibited scooters from campus."

The scooters, distributed by the company Spin, present a hazard as there are many hills and crowded sidewalks which could lead to potential crash accidents and injuries.

Sophomore, Mia Lubrani, took an interest in campus concerns and safety.

"I have noticed these scooters everywhere. They seem to make

exploring the city more exciting," Lubrani said. "I think they're super beneficial in helping people run around, but I am interested to learn about their rules here on campus concerning our safety."

Many Duquesne students are unaware of the "Spin ban," a recent influx of scooters left on campus. Duquesne's vehicle policy, that also applies to motorcycles, states that the presence of motor vehicles on campus must be registered with the parking office and stored in the garage. When left unattended, the vehicle is to be towed away.

"Failure to uphold this principle can lead to complete expulsion of parking privileges and/or turned over to the Department of Public Safety as theft of services, and/or Student Conduct," according to

Duquesne Parking Regulations page

Duquesne has not yet announced the punishment for the unattended scooters, but a warning by Spin acknowledges that any mistakes in parking will result in an additional fine or temporary ban.

Electric scooters were recently introduced to the Pittsburgh area as a means of an easy, fun, and accessible means of transportation. These scooters can be seen nationwide and throughout Europe. The company was founded in October of 2018.

On Spin's website, they tout their goal of creating better mobility for those living in cities. Today, many appear throughout the streets as they have gained quick popularity.

Frehsman, Jane Straffon, expresses her surprise upon learning about Duquesne's scooter policy.

"I've seen the scooters around town, and they seem like something I'd be interested in. I've also seen a few alongside the sidewalks here on campus too, but no, I was not aware that they were prohibited here," Straffon said.

Duquesne has announced they are working alongside the city to create a safe zone.

Posted on their website, it is indicated that there is a pursuit to officially mark campus as a No Ride Zone, which would be programmed in the scooters. This means a geo-fence, an invisible barrier, would be created to prevent the scooters' ability of trespassing onto school grounds.

Duquesne is working towards creating a safe boundary for our students by putting the ban in place.



MARY LIZ FLAVIN | NEWS EDITOR

A lone electric scooter is parked haphazardly outside the corner of College Hall. This creates problems for students trying to get from class to class.



ZOE STRATOS | OPINIONS EDITOR

Three electric scooters were found parked between McCloskey Field and the Mary Pappert School of Music, adding to the collection of scooters that have been left around campus.

Duquesne Administration takes on new position

COLLEEN HAMMOND
editor-in-chief

There's a new seat at Duquesne's administrative table as the search for the university's first Chief Diversity Officer gets underway.

On July 29, President Ken Gormley announced the creation of the new position in an email addressed to the entire Duquesne community.

"The creation of this position reflects our collective commitment to bolstering our inclusive practices," Gormley said.

This announcement came just days after the one year anniversary of Duquesne's Black Student Union (BSU) — in conjunction with nearly a dozen other minority student organizations — issuing "a series of action plans designed to enhance and establish a more diverse and inclusive atmosphere for all students, more specifically the Black students, at Duquesne University."

Gormley specified that this new hire will serve as a member of his

cabinet and will work to further Duquesne's efforts for a more diverse and inclusive campus.

"We acknowledge that an increasingly diverse and talented workforce and campus community are crucial to advancing our university in the years and decades ahead," Vice President of Marketing and Communications Gabe Welsch said.

In addition to opening the application pool, Gormley also announced the selection committee, led by Senior Vice President of Civic Engagement and External Relations Bill Generett; Mary Ellen Solomon, chief of staff and associate vice president; and Welsch.

Among the 12 other members of the selection committee are Anthony Kane, director of diversity and inclusion; the Rev. Bill Christy, university chaplain; and Nicola Henry-Taylor, director of diversity at Duquesne's Law School and Common Pleas Court hopeful.

"Duquesne intends to hire a person with the skills, knowl-

edge and experience to bring people together in shared actions to make the university inclusive for all who choose to work or pursue their educational goals here," Welsch said.

Both Welsch and Gormley stressed the importance of this role attracting highly qualified individuals with a strong commitment to matters of diversity. The official job posting recommends a minimum of six years of experience in higher education (or a related field) with a focus on coaching, teaching and developing diversity and inclusion initiatives and programming.

The job posting also asks that qualified applicants be "results oriented," though it is unclear in the description what results look like in this role.

One of the major requests in BSU's list of demands included that university administration create an anonymous system for reporting acts of racism and discrimination on campus. While this type of request would likely be overseen by the new Chief Diversity Officer, it is unclear what role student minority organizations will play in the day-to-day work of this new position.

The creation of this role is just the latest in what Gormley and Welsch call the university's "Strategic Plan: Re-Imagining Duquesne's Spiritan Legacy for a New Era."

Last updated in February 2020, this plan details how Duquesne intends to become "the region's flagship institution for community engagement."

In the entirety of this 11-page report, the word diversity is only mentioned three times, once in reference to Duquesne's hiring practices and twice in regard to campus culture and student re-



ANDREW CUMMINGS | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

The Chief Diversity Officer position is the first of its kind at Duquesne. University administration is excited to fill the job slot soon.

cruitment.

Still, much headway on the issues of diversity and inclusion have been made across campus — beyond the creation of this new cabinet position.

During the spring 2021 semester, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion underwent a re-branding as Duquesne's new Center for Excellence in Diversity and Student Inclusion. This change came with a fresh, fully renovated office located in room 302 of the Student Union.

"It was important for us to be in a spot where students could be with us and engage with us," Kane told The Duke back in April.

As the center continues to flourish in its new home, Welsch said the application process for the Chief Diversity Officer has already begun — with several qualified applicants submitting their names for consideration.

"We are optimistic that a highly-qualified individual will be selected for this position dur-

ing the fall semester, so that we will be able to move forward expeditiously with this exciting new appointment," Welsch said.

To see President Gormley's official announcement about Chief Diversity Officer go to <https://www.duq.edu/news/releases/president-ken-gormley-announces-search-for-a-chief-diversity-officer>



KATIA FAROUN | FORMER STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The re-imagining of Duquesne's Spiritan Legacy is underway with the new position. In addition the Office of Diversity and Inclusion has rebranded itself as Duquesne's Center for Excellence in Diversity and Student Inclusion.



Crime Tips: Place the DUPS phone number in your contacts — 412-396-2677. If you are the victim of a crime, do not hesitate to call the police as soon as you safely can. No crime is too small, insignificant, or unimportant to report. If walking off campus, try to have a 'walking buddy' accompany you. Try to be alert to the people and environment around you; if something doesn't seem right to you, go to the most public area nearby, and call DUPS. Use your cellphone to record what is occurring if you can do so safely.



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College Hall hammond@duq.edu

DU football poised for another exciting season

SPENCER THOMAS
staff writer

After a successful spring 2021 season ended in heartbreak, the Duquesne football team has its sights set on another historic campaign.

Head Coach Jerry Schmitt returns for his 17th season at the helm. He leads the team into an early gauntlet, with its first two matchups coming against FBS programs — TCU and Ohio — away from Rooney Field.

Last year's squad went undefeated in an abridged regular season and earned the final spot in the STATS FCS Top 25 Poll heading into the Northeast Conference Championship.

On April 11, it squared off with Sacred Heart in a rematch between two familiar opponents. The Dukes defeated the Pioneers, 30-27, on March 7. Despite erasing a 14-point fourth-quarter deficit, the Dukes fell, 34-27, in overtime of the rematch.

Without a conference championship title punching its ticket to the FCS Playoffs, Duquesne missed out for the second consecutive season.

The Dukes were picked to finish second in this year's NEC Preseason Coaches Poll, receiving two first-place votes. Only Sacred Heart was picked ahead of Duquesne, receiving four first-place votes. Central Connecticut also received one first-place vote.

With a full slate of games this fall, the Dukes will have the opportunity to return to the FCS Playoffs for the first time since 2018, when they defeated Towson before falling to South Dakota State.

Though both sides of the ball were immensely valuable to the team's success in the spring, growth is needed. In order to surpass last season's win total, there need

to be some key improvements on the defensive side of the ball.

Last year, when the defense was sound, the Dukes were unbeatable. In the three games not against Sacred Heart, the defense allowed a total of 27 points, including a shutout victory over Wagner.

However, in the two games against the Pioneers, they allowed a total of 61 points, including 34 in the season-ending defeat. The main flaws came with the run defense, which allowed nearly five yards per attempted rush.

Those improvements can be made.

All the members of last year's front seven return, and their previous experience combined with a stable leadup to the season should massively benefit them. Defensive coordinator Dave Opfar has had two years to work with virtually the same players on the ground. Combining an improved rush defense with a lockdown secondary would create a scary sight for the opposition.

Quarterback Joe Mischler returns as perhaps the most notable player on the Bluff. Coming off a spring season that saw him throw for an average of 239 yards per game, the Erie, Pa., native earned a spot on this season's FCS National Performer of the Year Trophy Watch List.

He'll be tested early against a bolstering TCU defense in Week 1. In Week 2, Mischler will get to face Ohio, the team he spent the 2019 season with before transferring to Duquesne.

Running back Billy Lucas won the NEC Freshman of the Year Award in the spring and was a finalist on the Jerry Rice Award Watch List, which recognizes the top freshman at the FCS level.

He averaged 4.5 yards per carry, exploding for 110 yards and a touchdown in the rain in a March 28 win over Bryant. Expect

him to once again combine with Mischler, his former high school teammate, to establish an intriguing pair this year.

Wide receiver Joey Isabella burst onto the scene this spring, winning NEC Rookie of the Week after he caught six passes for 49 yards in the March 14 win against Wagner.

He earned a starting spot in the season's final two games and caught six passes for 76 yards and two touchdowns in the NEC Championship. Look for a massive step forward from Isabella, as he's finally been able to go through an offseason program undeterred by Covid-19, paired with the chance to compete in a full 10-game season.

With matchups coming against both Sa-

cred Heart (Oct. 23) and Central Connecticut (Nov. 13), Duquesne will get two late-season opportunities to cement itself as a top-tier team in the conference.

This year's schedule is loaded with challenging opponents, but it also offers Duquesne the chance to beat the best in order to be the best at season's end.

It all starts Saturday night, when the Dukes take on TCU at Amon G. Carter Stadium in Fort Worth, Texas.

TCU, a member of the Big 12 Conference, finished last season with a 6-4 record. The Horned Frogs were scheduled to face Arkansas in the Mercari Texas Bowl, but the game was canceled due to Covid-19 issues in TCU's program.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

After a spring campaign in which Joey Isabella caught 17 passes and two touchdowns, the brother of Arizona Cardinals wide receiver Andy Isabella is primed to take another step forward this fall.

DU volleyball wins two of three in Youngstown trip

LUKE HENNE
sports editor

In its first non-conference action in almost two years, the Duquesne volleyball team made the most of its trip to Youngstown, Ohio, winning two of three matches during the YSU/DoubleTree-Youngstown Invitational this past weekend.

In their first match Friday afternoon at the Beeghly Center, the Dukes defeated host Youngstown State in three sets. Hailey Poling led the way with 27 assists, while Summer Slade registered 11 digs and 10 kills in the season-opening victory over the Penguins.

The win marked the first for the Dukes in a non-conference contest since Sept. 21, 2019, when they defeated Eastern Kentucky during the Mountaineer Invitational in Morgantown, W.Va.

Just hours later, Duquesne took on Saint Francis (Pa.), besting the Red Flash in four sets. Poling added another 31 assists in the second victory of the day for Head Coach Steve Opperman's squad. Morgan Kelly posted 13 kills and seven digs, while Slade recorded 11 digs and nine kills.

The back-to-back victories were the first for Duquesne since they won three straight over

George Mason (twice) and La Salle in Oct. 2019.

After regrouping, the Dukes returned to the floor Saturday afternoon to take on Akron in their final match of the invitational.

After dropping the first set, the Dukes regrouped and took both the second and third frames. However, they couldn't close out the match, and the Zips grabbed the fourth set by a 25-23 tally before besting Duquesne, 15-13, in the deciding set.

Kelly recorded 24 kills and 18 digs in the loss, while three other Dukes posted 15 or more digs.

Despite the defeat in the invitational's final game, Duquesne started the season with two wins. During the truncated spring season, the Dukes won just one of their nine contests.

The Dukes don't get to return to the confines of UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse just yet, but they will be closer to home for their next trio of games.

Duquesne is set to participate in the RMU/Chick-fil-A Robinson Labor Day Classic this weekend at the UPMC Events Center in Moon Township, Pa. The Dukes will battle both Idaho and Liberty Friday before taking on host Robert Morris Saturday afternoon.

The upcoming weekend invitational is the first of three non-conference, multi-team events over the next three weekends for the Dukes.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Members of the DU women's volleyball team huddle during a Feb. 2021 home match against VCU. After going 1-8 during the spring, the Dukes have already started this season with two wins in three games.

Duquesne will head to Buffalo, N.Y., to square off against Canisius, Buffalo and American in the Western New York Invitational Sept. 10 and Sept. 11.

The Dukes will then head to Kent, Ohio, for the Kent State Invitational, where they'll meet Youngstown State again (Sept. 17) before facing host Kent State (Sept. 18).

DU men's basketball releases non-conference schedule

LUKE HENNE
sports editor

In his fifth season at the helm, Head Coach Keith Dambrot looks like he's assembled what might be his strongest non-conference schedule during his Duquesne tenure.

The men's basketball program released its 2021-22 non-conference slate on Aug. 26, with seven home games highlighting what will be the team's first fully on-campus campaign since 2018-19.



LUKE HENNE / SPORTS EDITOR

Duquesne will host seven teams — including perennial, mid-major stalwarts like Weber State and Wofford — at UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse during this season's non-conference slate of games.

It all gets started on Nov. 9, when the Dukes welcome Rider to town to reopen the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse at full capacity. It will also be a homecoming for Jett Roesing, a Pittsburgh native who played one game

with Duquesne last season before transferring to Rider.

Two games in three days against solid opponents in Hofstra (Nov. 13) and Weber State (Nov. 15) will help keep Duquesne busy during the season's first week.

Hofstra won 13 of 23 games last season after claiming the Colonial Athletic Association title prior the Covid-19 pandemic in 2019-20. Weber State went 17-6 last season and has appeared in postseason competition during nine of Head Coach Randy

already set for Nov. 19.

Depending on outcomes of other tournament games, Duquesne could wind up playing the likes of Colorado, Colorado State, or Creighton. Colorado and Creighton both won at least one game during last year's NCAA Tournament, while Colorado State was a semifinalist in last season's National Invitation Tournament.

Following the holiday, the Dukes return home for a pair of back-to-back games against American (Nov. 28) and Bowling Green (Dec. 1). Dylan Swingle, now at Bowling Green, will return to Pittsburgh after spending the 2018-19 season as a red-shirt with the Dukes.

Following the brief homestand, a two-game road trip will take Duquesne to Huntington, W.Va., and Chicago for contests with Marshall (Dec. 4) and DePaul (Dec. 7), respectively.

The matchup with Marshall will mark the Dukes' first true non-conference road game since they took on Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., on Nov. 20, 2018. DePaul, a member of the Big East Conference, will be the first power conference opponent for the Dukes since they battled Penn State to the wire on Dec. 19, 2018.

The Dukes will return home for a quick clash with New Hampshire on Dec. 11.

On Dec. 19, Duquesne will travel to Akron, Ohio, to take on UC Irvine. The game will take Dambrot back to the city where he was born, coached NBA superstar LeBron James in high school and coached at the University of Akron for 13 years prior to coming to Duquesne.

The trip to Akron has become somewhat of an annual tradition (with last year being an exception due to Covid-19 restrictions). In both 2018-19 and 2019-20, Duquesne played Radford in the city, defeating the

Highlanders in both contests.

However, UC Irvine will be no easy match. The Anteaters won 18 games last season and advanced to the Big West Conference Tournament's championship game. In 2018-19, Head Coach Russell Turner led the program to a 31-6 season and an upset victory over Kansas State in the NCAA Tournament.

The non-conference slate concludes with a home date against Wofford on Dec. 22. In two seasons since former Head Coach Mike Young departed for Virginia Tech, successor Jay McAuley has compiled an impressive 34-25 overall record.

For the third consecutive season, neither Pitt nor Robert Morris will appear on the Dukes' schedule. Duquesne last played Pitt on Nov. 30, 2018, while having not squared off with Robert Morris since Nov. 19, 2017.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Keith Dambrot has put together a competitive non-conference schedule for Duquesne in 2021-22.

DU women's soccer goes 0-1-1 in weekend slate

BRENTARO YAMANE
staff writer

It was a weekend of growth and experience for the Duquesne women's soccer team, who drew one and lost one of its two weekend contests.

The action got underway Friday night at Rooney Field when the Dukes battled Valparaiso in their second non-conference game of the season. It was the first time that the two schools ever faced one another.

Early on, Duquesne's Ashley Briscoe tackled Valparaiso's Kelsie James in the penalty area, but Briscoe fell when she tried to get back up, giving James a prime shooting chance. James faked out goalkeeper Megan Virgin to score, giving Valparaiso a 1-0 lead in the game's 16th minute.

Despite trailing 1-0 at halftime, the Dukes responded with two unanswered goals.

After Valparaiso goalkeeper Nikki Coryell made an initial save on Emma Bundy, Jaimi Araujo pounced on the rebound and scored, tying the game at 1 in the 58th minute.

Five minutes later, when Coryell tried to catch a headbutted ball by Duquesne's Karly Steinher, teammate Alexis Gaffney bumped into her. Coryell failed to catch the ball and

Bundy — who was right in front of the net — capitalized on the miscue and scored, giving the Dukes a 2-1 lead.

However, after a foul was called on Briscoe late in regulation, James struck again by scoring from 31 yards out on a free kick to help the Beacons tie the game at 2 in the 79th minute.

The score remained tied at 2 when regulation time concluded. Neither team was able to score in either overtime period, thus ending the game in a 2-2 draw.

The Dukes looked to bounce back when they traveled to Morgantown, W.Va., to take on West Virginia Sunday evening. The game start, originally scheduled for 5 p.m., was delayed by nearly an hour and a half due to inclement weather.

Duquesne stayed in the game, trailing just 1-0 at halftime.

However, the Mountaineers added two more goals in the second half, ultimately winning by a 3-0 tally.

Duquesne played a clean game, not committing any fouls. By comparison, West Virginia committed seven fouls.

However, the Mountaineers got more chances, outshooting Duquesne by a 19-3 mark. Capitalizing on their chances made all the difference.



BRENTARO YAMANE / STAFF WRITER

Mackenzie Leeder (*left*) and Karly Steinher (*right*) chat briefly during Duquesne's season-opening victory against Saint Francis (Pa.) on Aug. 22. Through three games, Steinher has a goal and assist to her name.

The win helped West Virginia improve its all-time series record against Duquesne to 10-0-2.

With a record of 1-1-1, the Dukes will go a week without games. Their next scheduled con-

test is set for Sunday afternoon, when they host Youngstown State at Rooney Field.

The Dukes last hosted YSU on Sept. 15, 2019, defeating the Penguins, 6-0, in a blowout.

Shadyside — The Art Festival paints a portrait of local art

CAPRI SCARCELLI
a&e editor

On August 28-29 from 10a.m. — 5p.m., artists both Pittsburgh-native and beyond set up their tent for a long day of sharing what they have created.

In support of local artists, Pittsburgh’s 24th annual “Shadyside — The Art Festival” on Walnut Street offered an array of wall art and knick-knacks perfect for any grab-bag gift: this included paintings, jewelry, pottery, photography and other creations available for purchase at each vendor’s booth.

Senior education major Kaitlin Dodd said she was impressed with the amount of artists and variety. Although a different layout than Pittsburgh’s Three Rivers’ Art Festival that she was used to going to, she said it still “creat[ed] a unique Pittsburgh experience.”



CAPRI SCARCELLI | A&E EDITOR
Sold in packs, customers of Bob Ross can buy coasters of their favorite classic artists and albums.



CAPRI SCARCELLI | A&E EDITOR
With tents lining either side of Walnut St., the Shadyside Arts Festival gave Pittsburgh locals an opportunity to find new art with each passing step.

“I appreciated that the Shadyside Arts Festival was more intimate and secluded, it was very picturesque as well, and I found some artists I had never seen before. I walked around the different booths, admired work, talked to the artists and ate dinner at one of the local restaurants nearby [Shady Grove],” Dodd said.

Through the cultural hub of Pittsburgh, artists are often looking for places to showcase their work, which is where former Duquesne law student and now full-time artist Sara O’Connor has found solace in festivals like Shadyside’s.

According to O’Connor, her painting career began as a hobby and flourished with the support of friends, family and colleagues wanting to buy her work.

“It started as a way to relax and unwind to paint something oceanic, so I just started making little dots

with paint which eventually turned to rose petals and my new love for floralism,” O’Connor said. “I loved to play with perler beads when I was young, mixing up the beads and separating them, and so I decided to try that with paint.”

O’Connor said she recommends this festival for anyone interested in the atmosphere, whether displaying their art or simply there to stroll through and observe.

“I really like the Shadyside Arts Festival, I think it’s got a great location and great artists,” O’Connor said. “I applied to various different art shows across the northeast and decided to drive up from Richmond and set up shop for Shadyside’s two-day weekend [to share my work].”

Those interested in purchasing O’Connor’s paintings can visit sara-oconnorfineart.com for her bubbly paintings or for a specially-commis-

sioned piece.

For a unique musical twist, artist Bob Ross (no relation) makes wall clocks and coasters from “original, vintage album covers and album labels” for his own business, Tune’s Company.

“I like to make what people love. It sounds corny, but when people light up for a certain artist it melts my heart, and things like that is what makes what I do something I feel very lucky about doing,” Ross said.

Dodd said she bought three items off of Ross as a gift to herself and to her family.

“I purchased a beautiful custom clock from Bob Ross. It was made from the album of Joni Mitchell’s Blue,” Dodd said. “I also got Beatles’ Revolver as well as Rolling Stone’s Exile on Main St. as coasters for my dad’s birthday.”

According to Ross, “Shadyside — The Art Festival” was sponsored by a company called Howard Allen Events. Hailing from Florida, Ross followed this festival to Pittsburgh to showcase his work.

“They do a great job, and I was very excited to exhibit alongside them,” Ross said.

Ross’ work can be purchased on his website: tunesco.com.

As an employee of a small business, Dodd said that shopping small “is very close to [her] heart.”

“Small businesses/local artists are what make our city special! They need our support more now than ever.” Dodd said. “It’s very easy to just stop into a big store out of convenience, but please remember to shop local as often as possible to show your support.”

HOROSCOPES

Aquarius
Only 129 days until the FARM SHOW! How will you prepare?

Gemini
When the moon hits your eyes like a big GE-MI-NI.

Libra
Oh rawr!

Pisces
Walking around South Side with your AirPods in, but dead. The mystery you possess!

Cancer
Order in the court! Order in the court! Where's the Buddha Bowls???

Scorpio
Oh to be announced ping pong champion...

Aries
You are the rain on some-one's parade, but a rain to the growing flowers!

Leo
Ayo, anyone wanna cuddle up to the Addison Rae movie?

Sagittarius
crickets

Taurus
Congratulations! You are 129 days ahead of the FARM SHOW!

Virgo
Sept. 1, 1989: Dear Diary (Why?)

Capricorn
Yes.

WEEK'S EVENTS

DPC DUNite:
Kahoot and Mocktails
Sept. 2 @ 9 p.m.

Join DPC in the Nite Spot for a night of everyone's favorite test-your-knowledge game with beverages provided!

Greek Field Day
Sept. 3 @ 12 p.m.

Stop by College Hall lawn for lawn games, walking tacos and music to get acquainted with Greek life!

DPC DUNite:
Rita's Ice
Sept. 3 @ 9 p.m.

Stop by College Hall Lawn for this week's DPC DUNite, and get a free grab-and-go Rita's Ice. Supplies are limited!

DPC Outdoor Movie:
In the Heights
Sept. 3 @ 9 p.m.

Welcome in the weekend with a showing of the musical-made-movie *In the Heights*! If faced with weather conditions, the movie location will be moved to 105 College Hall.

CAPRI'S KIND WORDS

Second Week Scares

Syllabus week is over, which means it's time to get down to business (in a sense).

It's OK to need a break, even early on in the semester. Making time for sorting through your thoughts and caring for your well-being will always supercede a due date, no matter the circumstance.

To start off, make sure you are nourishing yourself throughout the day: whether that be drinking enough water, eating when your body needs it and resting to recharge after a long day of lectures and notes.

Make that playlist you conjured up when you dozed off, doodle in your notebook, leave time to make time. It all comes down to you!

- Capri Scarcelli

Birthday hacks: how to get free food in Pittsburgh

EMMA POLEN

layout editor

My birthday always seems to fall on a school day. While this is certainly an inconvenience, there is still an opportunity to make it special: Head to Market Square and reap restaurants' free birthday rewards!

It takes just three simple steps to earn free birthday rewards all within walking distance of campus.

First, you've got to download the rewards apps. For the following restaurants, birthday rewards are only given at the register if the customer shows a specific code on the app or on their e-mail.

It is also important to note that many - if not all - of these locations require rewards members to make a purchase using their app before they are allowed to gather a free birthday reward.

In other words, free food is not an attainable goal if one waits until the month of their birthday to begin signing up for rewards programs.

Once the apps are downloaded and registered, it's time to head down to Market Square. It is a good idea to have a plan ready for all the places offering birthday rewards. For example, are you ordering ahead?

Are you heading to the free beverage places first so you have something to sip as you go?

Are you going to places offering hot food last so that it is still hot when you are ready to eat?

Do you have room in your fridge for the leftovers?

If this all seems a little overwhelming, do not fear! Next, I will share the route I took on my birthday to make it easier on anyone



EMMA POLEN | LAYOUT EDITOR

Allison Covert (left) and Emma Polen (right) enjoy their free Starbucks drinks for one of many tasty birthday treats.

wanting free birthday rewards.

The Route:

First stop was Hello Bistro. After signing up for their email list last time I visited, I received a \$5 off \$10 purchase voucher. I ordered a shrimp salad which was \$11.50 after tax.

Our second stop was Noodles & Company. They were able to look up my reward account with my phone number at the register. Then, I cashed in my free birthday treat. There are three options for the free treat, and I went with an enormous triangle hunk of Rice Krispie treat.

Next up was Starbucks. Ordering ahead on the app does not qualify Trenta-size beverages for the free birthday drink, but the barista will honor the reward on a Trenta if the drink is ordered in-person.

The fourth place we visited was Dunkin' Donuts. Obviously, the largest size they have is the way to go. Since my roommate was with me, I

handed a large cold brew without ice for her to carry back to the dorm. The coffee lasted me for a week. Free coffee...for a week!

Our last two locations consisted of hot food so that we could enjoy them hot. The first hot food birthday reward was Chipotle. The free chips and guac was applicable with a minimum purchase of \$5. So I ordered a kid's meal, \$5.30 after tax, and split it with my roommate.

Finally, we stopped at Moe's. This is always my personal favorite stop because they offer an entire free burrito on my birthday. Moe's employees are always super nice, even during the busy dinner hour. Moe's app also offers members a free bowl of queso and chips frequently throughout the year.

Step three: Be nice to employees.

Not every employee was super happy that I was taking up their time while the restaurant was full of

actual paying customers. Be kind to our service workers and remember to thank everyone.

At the same time, some employees might have more enthusiasm than the actual birthday customer. My Starbucks barista was excited for me as soon as she heard it was my birthday.

She was also happy to inform me that the Market Square Starbucks gets supply deliveries on Wednesdays.

If the app informs that the location is out of a certain drink, the app might not have updated yet. Just make the order once you are actually at Starbucks and chances are, they will have the ingredients for the drink.

There are a few details to keep in mind when adventuring into this busy part of the city. First of all, stick with a buddy! This is for personal safety but also for the quantity of food there will be to consume. There is no

possible way a single human being can eat--and carry--all the free food available in Market Square at once.

In fact, bringing a buddy can also be a great bonding experience! I brought my roommate along on my birthday walk. She does not live close to Pittsburgh, and she lived at home last year. This was really her first experience off-campus ever. What better way to welcome a person to Duquesne than with free food from the city?

Second of all, this is not an all-inclusive list of free food opportunities in the area. If a student has a car to travel further and faster, McKnight Road, about 20 minutes north of campus, is an almost unending course of free birthday rewards. There are also places, like Dunkin and Starbucks, with locations in other nearby areas besides Market Square.

Lastly, part of planning ahead also requires having cash on-hand. My roommate and I did spend a combined amount of \$12 to reap our free food rewards.

In addition to the benefit of free food, this was a great experience to get out of my comfort zone. Checking out at all of these different places and asking nicely if they will scan your free reward gave me some anxiety initially, but something about it being my birthday gave me the extra boost of confidence needed to make my request.

Don't be afraid to get creative! I am positive that there are restaurants I do not even know about that might be closer to your location. Just do some research, and you can end up with a truck-load of free food on your special day!

Deafheaven album 'Infinite Granite' subverts expectation

JOHN CANTWELL

staff writer

In 2013, the musical landscape of Pitchfork hipster sounds was shaken to its core by the tremolo picked (yet atmospheric) guitar sounds, pummeling blast-beat drums and banshee shrieks of Deafheaven's sophomore LP *Sunbather*. An album that, upon release, gifted listeners with tracks heavily inspired by the shoegaze-y, dream-pop sounds of English rock band Slowdive, as well as the cacophonous black metal tone of Emperor alike. It was easy to see how Deafheaven left heavy metal elitists and indie rock yuppies both scratching their heads and dazing off to the euphoric and monstrous crescendos of tracks like "Dream House" and "Vertigo" off of the sophomore LP.

Since this release, Deafheaven's sound and compositions continue to embark into new sonic territory, with each album sounding uniquely different but without losing their signature "blackgaze" moniker.

However, with the release of *Infinite Granite* on August 20, it appears that they have since abandoned (mostly) the iconic screamed vocals of George Clarke and blistering black metal inspirations in place of even more reverb-drenched guitar progressions and more conspicuously clean vocals.

Infinite Granite is a drastic departure from the group's previous escapades, substituting the vile throat-abusing screams in exchange for more soft vocal inflections and even more glimmering guitar tones that still showcase the band covering unorthodox territory, whether it

makes the metalheads happy or not.

The album's exposition begins with "Shellstar," as an ambient synthesizer chord leads directly into a gentle guitar arpeggio by Kerry McCoy and Shiv Mehra, with lyrics (as George Clarke puts it) that "allude to isolation and the attempt to rationalize traumatic and emotional events."

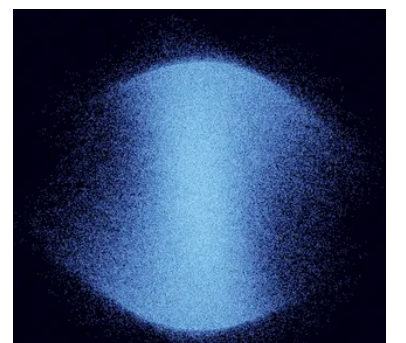
The song then crescendos into a distorted (but not too heavy) chorus exhibits the band's sonic qualities without overdoing it, all while showcasing that the songs can still hit without it being traditionally "heavy."

"In Blur," the third single the band released, gives the listener a warm feeling of summer bliss, which is perfectly encapsulated with the accompanying music video which features the band playing tunes with their label mates. The chorus almost sounds like an Oasis track, with McCoy's reverb-

drenched guitar taking the forefront alongside Dan Tracy's sporadic drum rhythms that showcase how tight the band's sound is, even when they are not playing their traditional, black metal infused sound.

Although the high points on the album really hit, the constant crescendo-building in almost every one of the tracks can sometimes be a repetitive formula, as every song appears to start with a soft, gentle guitar arpeggio that leads into a booming climax.

The final track, "Mombasa," is the only track on the album that sees Deafheaven return to their roots, as the last three minutes bring back the cacophonous, yet triumphant black metal sound that brought them to the mainstream. The screams and blistering beats that fans know and love are all present within this final com-



COURTESY OF PITCHFORK

With a new sound, Deafheaven experiments with a tone that surprises fans. position, illustrating that although the band ventured into a new direction, they haven't totally forgotten where they came from.

Although it is by no means a perfect album, *Infinite Granite* will find itself to be a staple within the Deafheaven catalog.

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

113 College Hall
600 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15282

editorial staff

editor-in-chief Colleen Hammond
news editor Mary Liz Flavin
opinions editor Zoe Stratos
features editor Kellen Stepler
a&e editor Capri Scarcelli
sports editor Luke Henne
layout editor Emma Polen
multimedia editor Andrew Cummings
social media & ads Erin Carbone
administrative staff
adviser Paula Reed Ward

email us: theduquduke@gmail.com

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the mud too. That’s
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EDITORIAL
POLICY

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email: theduquduke@gmail.com

The eviction moratorium is over; the states need to do their part

Thousands of Americans behind on rent, landlords struggling to make ends meet: what happened to the American Rescue Plan?

The funding is there, but the pace of distributing those funds isn’t fast enough. And as the eviction moratorium finally came to an end on Aug. 26, displacement is highly likely for these struggling individuals.

But it’s not too late to mitigate the damage propagated by Covid-19 — as long as the state governments get their act together.

Constructed by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) has been a crucial program in aiding both tenants and landlords in acquiring money needed to satisfy rent or even utilities.

The problem is that this money was supposed to be distributed so there wouldn’t be a need for the moratorium to continue, but the numbers show that the end came far too quickly.

Of the \$847 million in federal assistance given to the Wolf administration, a little over 25% had been distributed to Pennsylvanians from March through July, according to data from the state Department of Treasury.

So far, 50,359 households have been assisted with \$218.5 million in rent and utility payments, but thousands more still wait for their assistance.

What’s even more surprising is that the 25% in Pennsylvania is far ahead of the national average, sitting at approximately 11%.

As the Aug. 26 date neared, the Biden administration knew its moratorium policy wouldn’t continue after Supreme Court review, but the goal was at least to allocate a little bit of time for aid to get out the door.

But the response from state governments was less than adequate. The moratorium is gone, and it’s critical for the aid to flow faster than it has been.

Being that the devastation caused by Covid-19 is unprecedented in modern times, the reaction time from state governments had to be of lightning speed. States had to cultivate distribution systems, alert the public of the ERAP program, create applications, review and process submitted applications and make sure all of it was distributed fairly and correctly.

Moreover, states have had technical issues with application websites, often caused by an overwhelming amount of applications. Landlords and tenants without internet access have had to rely on friends and family to help them apply. Documentation of income has



ZOE STRATOS

opinions editor

slowed applicants from submitting their requests.

There’s no denying this wasn’t an easy feat — as with anything in these times — but there’s been different options to prevent these delays. From here on out, it may save thousands of people from eviction.

Shortly before the end of the moratorium, the Treasury emphasized to states not to delay application confirmations while applicants gather necessary documents to finalize qualification.

In Pennsylvania, the average time to complete the application process is about 30 to 45 days, according to a statement by Kim Berkeley Clark, the president judge of the fifth judicial district of Pennsylvania in Allegheny County.

By beginning the confirmation process while appli-

cants gather certain documents, the entire processing time could be cut by potentially a few days — allowing for more Pennsylvanians to stay in their homes.

Another way to prevent evictions is for housing advocates to take their concerns to court, as Allegheny County and Bucks County in eastern Pa. did back at the beginning of August.

In these high or substantial transmission areas for Covid-19, such as ones with larger cities, judges may petition the state Supreme Court for delays in eviction hearings to protect renters trying to pay.

Judge Clark requested to reinstitute procedures to allow for sufficient time for applications to be processed and funds to be distributed through Oct. 31 while placing a temporary stay on most eviction hearings, according to the approved request.

The procedures allow for hearings in landlord/tenant cases to be scheduled up to 15 days beyond the time set forth in court rules. Initial hearings are instead treated as status conferences to consider applications for rental assistance.

“These are households impacted by Covid-19 whether due to illness or death, or loss of employment, transportation, childcare, etc. and have fallen behind on meeting their basic needs,” the Pittsburgh Union of Regional Renters (PURR) said in response to the request.

Housing advocates say the protections are not only humane to prevent evictions due to these issues, but it’s also a smart policy because there’s still a sizable budget available for rental assistance that can be given to struggling tenants.

Most importantly, states need to commit themselves to helping renters and landlords in this situation beyond their control.

And with the Supreme Court’s recent ruling, the states are all they have left.

They must act now.

STAFF
EDITORIAL

The case for trans athletes

Sports are some of the most popular events around the world, giving athletes the opportunity to compete and push the boundaries of what is humanly possible.

Even for people who do not follow athletics closely, household names like Usain Bolt and Simone Biles are known because of the magnitude of their achievements.

Suffice to say, most people can at least appreciate the spirit of athletic competition and achievement. That is, if it’s fair.

“Fairness is a difficult thing to come about in sports. Some people just have biological advantages.”

This is what Andie Taylor, a transgender woman who runs competitively, said in a *New York Times* video.

Fairness is a mainstay when discussing transgender participation in sports, whether it be at an elite or casual level. The main argument that arises is whether or not transgender women should be allowed to compete in traditional women’s sports.

The assumption is that because of their history as a biological male, they will have a physical advantage over cisgender women, and “destroy women’s sports.”

Most arguments about physical advantages refer to a combination of factors relating to testosterone levels, as well as other factors like height/weight, muscle mass and red blood cells. Proponents argue that these factors intrinsically give transgender women an advantage.

Different body types are advantageous for different sports. An athlete that has an advantage in one sport may be at a disadvantage in another. If there was a transgender athlete who was taller than their competition, it does not necessarily translate to an athletic advantage because height is not advantageous in all sports.

It is also important to realize that advantages already exist in sports among cisgender athletes, and they are not banned. Michael Phelps, for example, produces half of the lactic acid of his competition, and he is a celebrated Olympic champion.

Transgender athletes should not be excluded from sports because of their identity.

Transgender athletes have been allowed to compete in the Olympics since 2004, but this did not occur until this past summer in Tokyo. Laurel Hubbard, a weightlifter from New Zealand, was the first transgender athlete to compete in the Olympics. Hubbard failed to win any medals in the women’s over-87-kilogram division in the recent games.

This conveys a larger point that transgender athletes, so far, have not been dominating sports when they are allowed to compete, which is the main criticism against trans individuals.

There is no conclusive evidence that suggests transgender athletes create an unfair playing field for cisgender athletes, so it is wrong to exclude them from sports at any level.

The implications of male validation on feelings toward catcalling

JORDYN ROSE

staff columnist

As women, we have been dropped into a society that has praised male validation and the submissiveness of women since the beginning of time. Now, our generation and this new wave of feminism are pushing back on those standards, advocating for equality and for the better treatment of women from men and society.

Specifically, listening to catcalls has become somewhat of a normalized aspect of being a woman. Catcalling can be seen in the form of a yell, whisper or even a gesture or a touch. Feminists are now pushing back on the act commonly asserted by men, more than ever, deeming catcalling as morally incorrect and creepy — making women feel uncomfortable and objectified.

However, not everyone views catcalling in a negative light. According to a 2014 poll done by today.yougov.com, 72% of Americans say that catcalling is never appropriate, 24% of Americans aren't sure whether catcalls are a compliment or not and 20% of Americans view catcalls as compliments.

Although the majority of Americans do not find catcalling appropriate and complimentary, quite a few would possibly beg to differ. Why wouldn't all women find men sexualizing them gross, espe-

cially feminists?

As a feminist, I asked myself this question, appalled by how one could find a man screaming, "Hey gorgeous, can I get a smile?" across the road in the middle of a city to be appealing.

Feminism is, at its core, a glimpse of hope for women and a movement that propels women's rights forward.

But, we must acknowledge the value society has placed on male validation. Sure, this validation used to be more extreme decades ago when women were domesticated and could not do anything without a man's approval and dictatorship, but how much have times really changed? How many women still believe they need to dress and look a certain way in order to be attractive for men?

Many women would beg to differ as they dress and wear makeup for themselves.

I agree with the notion; I wear what I want to wear and look a certain way so that I feel good. But, there is an underlying question when I do choose my clothes some days or for certain occasions: how will I be perceived?

And stemming from these questions, I unconsciously plan my outfit around male validation.

Looking back at how confused I was on how anyone could even slightly enjoy being sexualized, I begin to understand where the 20% of Ameri-

cans are coming from.

Some women do not have any significant male figures in their life: no man to validate who they are and what they look like, as society has rooted that need within us. They may crave this aspect of male validation even more due to their extreme lack of it — leading to the concept of being catcalled seemingly appealing, flattering or fulfilling.

I, being one of these women without a complimentary male figure in my life, sympathize with these women. I look back at my own experience with catcalling and how it makes me feel: gross, appalled, objectified, uncomfortable...seen?

I am conflicted about how I could, deep down, feel some sort of positive feeling towards catcalling when I hate the feeling of being objectified and belittled to what a man thinks of my looks.

The act has hurt so many women and has contributed to the assertion of power men feel over women's bodies, so why do I feel this way? Why did I get somewhat jealous over the fact that my friend was catcalled by our own school's football team and I wasn't when I walked by?

Many women, even other feminists, may be feeling the same way I realized I feel by looking back at my experience: conflicted.

Even though feminists and society should advocate



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

Validation can be found in many ways, even in societal and sexual norms.

against catcalling along with other acts of harassment, we should not blame women for feeling some sort of positive feeling towards these sayings or acts carried out by men.

We should blame the society in which women have been seen as insubordinate and inferior to men in the past, and even today seen with sexism in the workplace.

Moreover, we must relinquish the thought that women aren't stronger, smarter, more athletic, etc. than men and the assumption that women need help lifting heavy things.

Examples of sexism such as these could go on and fill up the rest of this page and be-

yond, but I digress. The work is not done with the equality and better treatment of women in all aspects of life, along with the rooting out of society's deep penetrated value of male validation.

To the women reading this: you are worth more than man's perception of you; you are independent and strong. And do not feel like a terrible person if you, too, feel somewhat seen by catcalling; it's not your fault, you were born into a society where catcalling is normalized and male validation is still praised subtly in the sexist aspects of America.

If anything, that feeling is normal.

Esports is an amazing part of our culture, but is it really a sport?

CHRISTIANA CATES

staff columnist

The realm of esports has evolved dramatically, especially within this last decade, but many are faced with the question of whether or not it truly qualifies as a sport.

Esports involves groups of young men or women who are drafted on a team to play video games professionally based on skill and popularity. In professional sports, a team of people are drafted based on experience, talent and sometimes popularity.

Esports players can play console or on a PC, using a controller or mouse and keyboard in front of a monitor or TV. This does not rely on physical exertion or athleticism. Any individual can qualify.

Professional sports require athleticism factoring in genetics, height, weight and muscle mass. And that reasoning is where esports is disqualified.

The "e" in esports provides a clear barrier that it is not a sport, but rather electronic sports. It involves digital efforts with no physical attributes being a factor in the process of recruitment.

When looking at the most popular esports team, FaZe Clan, we see the patterns of recruitment and qualifications it takes to make the roster.

Even with these similarities, the argument boils down to the activity of an esports player versus a professional athlete.

FaZe Clan, owned by FaZe Temperrr (Thomas Oliveira) and nine other members, posted recruitment videos alongside their management team.

In September 2020, FaZe Clan posted on all active social media platforms: Twitter, YouTube and Instagram their Faze5 open recruitment challenge.

FaZe Clan recruitment is based on many different qualifications, such as player montages by competing members like: FaZe Qwidt and FaZe H1ghSky1, or even celebrity status. In the past couple of years FaZe has started recruiting celebrities like Bronny James and Ben Simmons due to its ever changing brand.

Looking at another esports team, Cloud9, we see a more strict team recruitment process. According to the Cloud9 website (cloud9.gg) you have the option of undergoing training to hone your skills through the Training Grounds program, which includes paid packages of four-week training initiatives, one-on-one review, and a curriculum taught by certified esports coaches.

Esports teams have owners and captains; captains can take their teams into champi-

onships and win large sums of money in competitions.

Over the years the most useful way of recruiting a player for a specific game is to see their player montage. This is what FaZe Clan, Cloud9 and Optic Gaming all have used to see a player's skills.

The montages vary from game to game showing cool tricks and shots made in the Call of Duty franchise or another franchise.

This comparison evidently shows that esports is not a sport, based on that recruitment is contingent upon if they can play a virtual game well enough.

Optic Gaming, formerly run by Nadeshot (Matthew Haag), is a prime example of an esports team that sticks to its recruitment roots.

Optic may have tougher recruitment, as it is marketed just for its esports, considering it was once a fierce competitor against FaZe.

When looking at professional sports, an athlete usually is trained from a young age into adulthood to reach the top level of a sport, the professional leagues. If we take football, a child may start playing at 10-years-old or younger in their school program, continuing through junior high school and high school.



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

Rising in popularity, controversy begins over whether or not esports are truly a sport.

The school years of playing advance, then are determined by a college scholarship to play in college sports. From college sports then players go into a draft, which involves rigorous workouts based on position.

Whether it's a long jump, running a QB to wide receiver drill or running and measuring that time, all of these require years of adequate physical training from youth into adulthood.

Esports is incredible, and as a FaZe Clan fan since 2015, it is an impressive league. But the

hard work and rigorous physical endurance that a professional sport requires is not there.

The qualifications are much less rigorous, and unlike sports, in which a game can thwart a whole season, in esports you are given multiple opportunities to compete at the highest level in different tournaments.

There is evidence disproving it as a sport. But ultimately it is up to the individual as to whether it qualifies as a sport.

Hear your way through campus with Duquesne's SoundWalk

RIO SCARCELLI
staff writer

Ambience is an idea most associated with sight. When taking in a cityscape or strolling through a park, the first things to come to mind may be the scenery or terrain.

Instead, what if an area's quality was first experienced through sound?

This is what students of the Mary Pappert School of Music sought to highlight with their very own SoundWalk on various spots of Duquesne's campus. Led by Assistant Musician-ship Professor Nicole Vilknor, her 2020-21 Music and Soundscape class made a year-long project out of touring a space through your ears.

A "SoundWalk," Vilknor explained, originated in the 1970s around areas of New York City. Without the technology, people were given signs that pointed them to different locations to take in the natural sounds of a geographic area. This could include birds chirping, leaves rustling or even booming city traffic.

"I thought it would be so neat to do something like that with the class and have them choose their own sounds to create an interactive tour of campus on different sites," Vilknor said. "[Music and Soundscape] was designed to stray away from the typical research paper and a final product. We wanted to collaborate to make a final project that the class would produce. Everyone had their own theme and the intricacies went from there."

School of Music alumna Katie Tonkinson was one of 15 students to adapt this idea using modern technology to highlight their own portion of campus in a specific SoundSite. The 15 sites can be found in locations* such as Lourdes Grotto, the Chapel Bell, Locust Garage, Academic Walk, Bluff Street, the Union and the Incline among many others.

"We studied the history and origins of the subject together as a class before individually focusing on creating our specific SoundSites," Tonkinson said. "Eventually, this served as our final project for the semester."

After learning the history, Vilknor and her students applied their knowledge of natural and manmade soundscapes to do their own intensive exhibit on schools, fields and walkways within Duquesne. To portray this,



RIO SCARCELLI | STAFF WRITER

A student takes a picture of the Rooney Field SoundSite's QR code as part of Duquesne's SoundWalk across campus. Duquesne's SoundWalk was created by School of Music professor Nicole Vilknor and her 2020-21 Music and Soundscape class.

they used the adaptable idea of signs with QR codes placed on stakes around campus.

"Using QR codes truly allowed anyone on campus to access the SoundWalk at any moment. In this age, we can all agree that we carry our phones with us all of the time," Tonkinson stated. "This gives every participant an equal opportunity to experience the SoundWalk whenever it is convenient for them."

All of this work was placed into a small, easy-to-access space that students can access at any time if they have a minute to spare. Part of the project was making sure that the SoundSites were not only simple to catch on to, but also a fun perspective to gain about the way a certain student

views the scenery of Duquesne.

Before they could undergo the task, there was a learning curve that had to be addressed: the 'technical chops' to complete a SoundWalk.

"As a class, part of our hurdle was learning how to produce a SoundWalk," Vilknor said. "We found out how to develop websites, how to embed links and audio files in QR codes and even what the revision process was like when making a website public."

Vilknor explained that every student took a different approach to the way you could hear certain aspects of the campus.

"Some of the ideas were natural, with examining the animal sounds in the area and others took on a historic view," Vilknor said. "One of my students got to learn that Academic Walk used to be a roadway. The unique perspectives each took shape when deciding what part of campus they wanted to focus on."

With months of research and continual revisions came the development and launch of their website for anyone to see. There are many ranges of views that students presented, and Tonkinson feature birds around campus. Different kinds of bird songs were played around the site and were highlighted through the lens of music. It showed the ways that music pulled from bird songs and what natural tunes we experience through animals.

"I was so excited to learn how many birds can be found in Pittsburgh and at our school. As a flautist, many of our famous solos are inspired by birdcalls and birdsong," Tonkinson said. "It was a very fascinating experience to connect my musical lessons to ornithology

and analyze if birds, themselves, can be musicians too."

Tonkinson's view is one of many vastly different perspectives that highlights aspects of campus that students may not pay attention to in day-to-day life. Covid-19 resulted in many of the natural sounds of traffic, animals and peer-to-peer conversation being entirely altered. Social distancing and the lack of people in a space made for a lack of sound as well.

"Specifically, the time we chose to do this was remarkable because of Covid-19," Vilknor said. "Campus did not sound like anything it used to. There were animals that were coming out in spaces that used to be occupied by traffic. Students interacted and spoke to one another differently. This gave us the perfect opportunity to show what kind of sounds that you would not normally think about missing on campus during any other time."

The dichotomy of Pittsburgh was something that Tonkinson and her peers found most interesting when examining a city environment surrounded by elements of nature. She explained that she learned to appreciate the louder sounds of traffic and bustling city environment that embellished the way we live.

"My favorite aspect of Duquesne's soundscape is the unique dichotomy of being located in a city environment while still being able to find elements of nature," Vilknor said. "While there is an innate tendency to assume the often louder, stereotypical noises of the city have a negative connotation, we learned to challenge that notion and embrace those sounds that contribute to our daily environment. The traffic on Forbes or 376 no longer represented a disturbance, but instead, a reminder of our contribution to Pittsburgh as a whole."

*LOCATIONS:

Lourdes Grotto (2)

College Hall & Music School Walkway

Chapel, Northwest Side

Chapel Bell

College Hall

Chapel, South Side

Locust Garage

Tent by Music School

Bluff Street

Duquesne Union, South Side

School of Music

Rooney Field

Academic Walk

The Incline



RIO SCARCELLI | STAFF WRITER

The SoundSite at Rooney Field.

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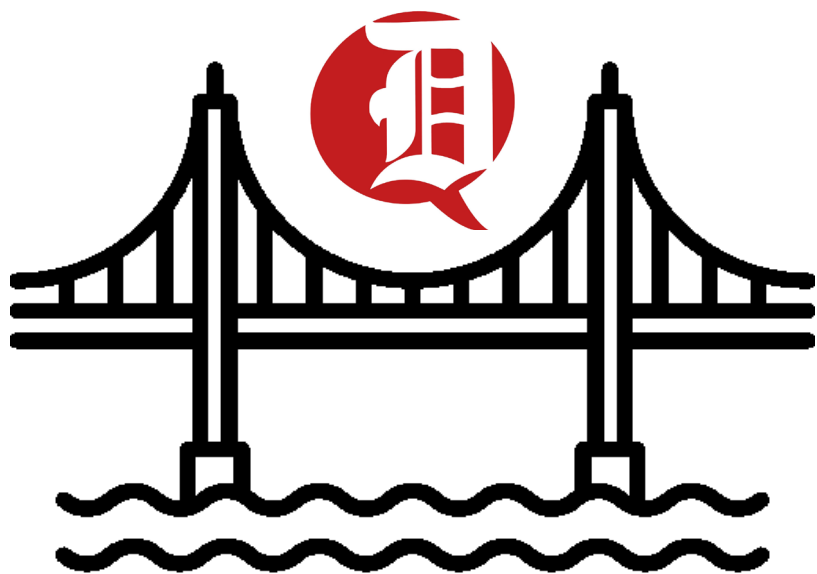
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