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THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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Duquesne extends mask mandate



MARY LIZ FLAVIN | NEWS EDITOR

Students transition to their next class in Fisher Hall, all while wearing masks and staying safe.

Ethical debate causes confusion

ZOE STRATOS
opinions editor

Duquesne University officials and psychology professor Derek Hook said this week that allegations that he promoted the idea of white people committing suicide in a presentation were false and that his comments posted to social media were abbreviated and taken out of context.

In a virtual lecture in June to Baltimore-based American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work (AAPCSW), Hook quoted controversial South African professor Terblanche Delport, who has said that the majority of white people in his country only engage with Black people in subservient positions.

A snippet of Hook's comments — as part of the lecture series "Deconstructing Whiteness Toward and Anti-Racist Clinical Practice" — were posted to Twitter and other social media platforms.

The 90-second portion of the lecture included a slide that read: "White people should commit suicide as an ethical act."

However, the post failed to include any other context, university officials said.

"While some of the content in the recording certainly contained troubling elements if taken alone, the full discussion only references the work of another person... and the extreme proposition in the context of post-Apartheid South Africa,"

see ethics — page 2

Campuses across the city continue to mask

MARY LIZ FLAVIN
news editor

Masks are here to stay on the Bluff as top university administration renewed the temporary indoor mask mandate over Labor Day weekend.

On Tuesday, Sept. 7, students received an email updating them on the university's decision to keep the mask mandate in place. It has been decided that for the time being, all individuals on campus — regardless of vaccination status — will continue to be required to wear a mask indoors.

"All individuals on campus are therefore reminded to wear

a face covering when indoors, both in public spaces and when they are in groups," the message said.

In continuation of this year's mask policy, fully vaccinated students, faculty and staff are allowed to unmask in shared dining spaces, when they are eating and drinking, when they are alone and not in a public or shared space and when they are outdoors.

Duquesne is not alone in making this decision.

Campuses across Pittsburgh continue to mask indoors as the Allegheny County Health Department has encouraged the continuation of temporary indoor masking requirements throughout the region.

Other universities in the area including Chatham University, Carlow University, Point Park University and the University of Pittsburgh have decided to keep the indoor masking policy in place. According to their website, facial coverings must be worn indoors and outside if you are within six feet of someone.

Across all campuses students with either a medical condition or with certain religious beliefs can apply for an exemption and are not required to wear a mask.

Students in each university must upload their vaccination status to their university's specific database in order to track the progress of their campus's vaccination status.

In terms of vaccination policy, Chatham, Carnegie Mellon and Duquesne all require their students to be vaccinated in order to attend in person classes. Carlow has not mandated their students to be vaccinated however, students living on campus and student athletes must be vaccinated. The University of Pittsburgh strongly advises faculty, students, and staff to get vaccinated although it is not required.

Chatham's community vaccination rate currently stands at 93% of students and employees on campus as of September 7. Across all of Pitt's campuses, 82% of the Pitt community has uploaded proof of vaccination as of Sept 1. Carnegie Mellon's vaccine database reports 90% of Pittsburgh based students, 90% of faculty, 79% of staff, and an overall 87% are fully vaccinated as of September 9.

According to Duquesne University's COVID-19 Health and Safety Dashboard that can be located under the health service

es tab on their website, 80% of students and 73% of employees were vaccinated as of Aug. 27.

In the email issued out to Duquesne students, Covid-19 vaccines are available, free of charge on campus from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Fridays. Vaccines are located in the Muldoon Building at the corner of Chatham Square and Fifth Avenue.

"The university's goal is to reach the point where the mask requirement can be lifted for vaccinated individuals. This depends on everybody doing their part to stay safe," the email said.

Call the Center for Pharmacy Care at 412.396.2155 or email cpc@duq.edu to schedule a vaccine appointment.

POLICE BRIEFS

Tuesday, Aug. 31 - A female student was physically grabbed by a male in front of the PNC Bank on Fifth Avenue. Female was able to run away from the attacker and was unharmed. The suspect, Andrew Dean White, was arrested for indecent assault.

Thursday, Sept. 2 - A potential suicidal non-affiliate requested to go to the hospital. The patient was found to have a bench warrant and was transported to the Allegheny County Jail.

Thursday, Sept. 2 - A student's vehicle was struck and damaged by an unknown person(s) on the 8th floor of the Locust Garage.

Saturday, Sept. 4 - A homeless man was found in the Forbes Garage by a campus security guard and was instructed to leave. The male was found again and was detained by campus police. He was issued a defiant trespass warning and released.

Saturday, Sept. 4 - A student was intoxicated and knocked the plastic housing off of the blue panic alarm in the lobby of Towers 10A — setting off the alarm. Two students are being referred to the Office of Student Conduct in relation to the incident.

COVID-19 NUMBERS

SCAN HERE FOR
COVID-19 DATA



EMAIL TIPS

We want your input!

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

University pushes back on false state- ments

see ethics — page 1

Duquesne officials said in a Sept. 2 statement.

"My lecture was focused on how white South Africans faced — and continue to face — a series of social and political transformations in post-apartheid South Africa," Hook said. "This is a country where white South Africans had for many years been assured cultural prominence and security, and that is no longer the case," Hook said.

The abbreviated clip of the lecture, posted to the Twitter account @MythinformedMKE on Aug. 25, caught the attention of news outlets like Fox News, as well as more than 250,000 views.

In it, Hook shares slides in which he quotes Delpont from a 2016 lecture.

The first slide shown in the video was titled "White people should commit suicide as an ethical act."

The slide goes on to quote Delpont: "The reality [in South Africa] is that most white people spend their whole lives only engaging black people in subservient positions..... My question is then how can a person not be racist if that's the way they live their lives? The only way then for white people to become part of Africa is to not exist as white people anymore...."

The next slide continues quoting Delpont:

"....If the goal is to dismantle white supremacy, and white supremacy is white culture.... then the goal has to be to dismantle white culture and ultimately white people themselves. The total integration into Africa by white people will also automatically then mean the death of white people, as white as a concept would not exist anymore"

After reading Delpont's quotes, Hook told the audience that the philosophy Delpont was offering was a "crazy gambit" and a "dramatization."

But, Hook, a scholar and practitioner of psychoanalysis in respect to racism and South Africa, also said "I want to suggest that, psychoanalytically, we could even make the argument that there was something ethical in Delpont's statements."

Hook explained in an emailed



ANDREW CUMMINGS | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Derek Hook, a psychology professor at Duquesne, talked about the philosophy of a South African professor, Terblanche Delpont in his lecture given in June to Baltimore-based American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work (AAPCSW)

response to the Duke there is a difference in how ethics is defined in psychoanalysis, as opposed to the traditional meaning. In this case, he explained, it pertains to the "prospect of subjective change or individual transformation that comes from clinical work."

In the video posted online, Hook said, "I think that Delpont took his white audience to the threshold of a type of symbolic extinction ... he took them to a proposed end of whiteness," adding that Delpont offered his white audience the opportunity to contemplate "the castration of whiteness."

Comments on the Twitter video were mostly negative, condemning Duquesne for employing a professor who spoke about suicide in such a way.

But Hook said on Wednesday he was not advocating suicide, but instead wanted to use controversial examples in his lecture to show the changing cultural and political environment of South Africa.

According to Hook, he came across Delpont during a conference at his alma mater, University of the Witwatersrand, in South Africa and chose to include him as part of his lecture.

"There has been, and continues to be, much anxiety about how white identities might be re-negotiated in a South Africa that is increasingly an overtly African country," he said. "What the news coverage of this event has thus far avoided, is that my argument suggests that such moments of transformation are also moments of opportunity, where positive, reconsidered and courageous types of identity can emerge."

In the online statement, the university called the attributions to Hook "ridiculous and reckless," adding that he was

not advocating for Delpont's philosophy.

"We immediately viewed the posts, the video and other coverage. In our assessment, the video was being presented inaccurately," said Gabe Welsh, vice president of marketing and communications at Duquesne. "We then sought clarification from Professor Hook about the incident."

The statement went on to say that Hook did not advocate for taking extreme measures, and does not advocate for violence. Moreover, he was attempting in his lecture to "understand how extreme thought is developed."

More reactions to the video came as iHood Media's podcast, ON TiLT: The State of Black Mental Health and Policing in America, discussed the angles of the provocations on Sept. 2.

The podcast's hosts, Julius Boatwright and Dannielle Brown, began the podcast by watching the video for the first time — Brown claiming there's "too many layers to this."

After a few minutes of discussion, the two hosts contemplated the deeper meaning of the presentation, both being mental health advocates and part of the Black community themselves, ultimately deciding the "package" of tying an anti-racist discussion with suicide isn't appropriate, but the discussion of acts of anti-racism, in general, is.

"I don't agree with the package, but this is a topic that is an eye opener and worth discussion over. There are certain segments to it that can be taken away, that can be also used for the betterment," Brown said. "But the package: we live in a world where we are soundbites. We will take something and run with it. That piece, there needs

to be accountability to it."

She then added that she believes there should be action taken.

"The bottom line is, there's a level of responsibility that these universities have to consider when it comes to bettering your professors and what our students are taught and can take home — cause this could go drastically wrong."

Emails have been sent to the university in response to the video, and the university is taking time to answer each one.

"The university has received some concerned email and calls from constituents and has responded to them, sharing accurate details, including a piece of independent reporting done by Reuters, the respected international news agency. Their independent research provided further clarification and detail that supported the fact that Professor Hook's lecture was misrepresented," Welsh said.

Duquesne also promotes the Center for Student Wellbeing for support options and counseling services. As an associate psychology professor, Hook advocates for these discussions as well.

"In clinical work, the issue of suicide is one that needs always to be kept in mind and taken very seriously, for obvious reasons. Sensitivity is obviously important in such contexts. Because it is such an important topic, it is normal that it would emerge in a professional meeting of psychoanalytic social workers, who need to think about — and anticipate — the reality of suicide in those they work with every day," Hook said.

"In such a professional context, it is important to discuss and explore what might act as a precursor to suicide, and to enter into such conversations with professional colleagues in order to prevent it."

Duquesne Political Science Department pays tribute to 9/11

KELLEN STEPLER
features editor

As college students, generation Z was too young to recall and comprehend – or even be alive for – the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

On Sept. 8, the Duquesne Political Science Department, the Political Science Club and Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society held a panel discussion called “The Afghanistan War and the 20th Anniversary of 9/11: A Retrospective and Look Forward.”

That day that shaped the lives of all Americans to some degree, political science professor Clifford Bob said.

Even 20 years later, Bob thinks that we have become a “more fearful society” and a society far more willing to give up basic civil liberties and constitutional speech, like the First Amendment’s right to free speech, and the Fourth Amendment’s right to due process.

“We have a whole range of other basic constitutional rights that have been weakened significantly in our so-called War on Terror that has gone on since 9/11 and is continuing today,” Bob said.

The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, shaped U.S. foreign policy “profoundly,” political science professor Mark Haas said. President George W. Bush had campaigned on a policy of restraint and against nation building, but that day “set the stage for transformation.”

“Dick Cheney became obsessed with demonstrating American power,” Haas said. “It wasn’t just enough to have power, we had to demonstrate it to the world so that people wouldn’t take on or conflict with the United States.”

America was under attack on September 11, 2001, political science professor Lewis Irwin said, and it wasn’t the first time Al-Queda wanted to attack the United States.

“These effects were intended by Osama bin Laden, because the terrorists only have to be right one time,” Irwin said. “If you’re in defense, you have to be right all the time.”

Irwin was also a chief for the Afghan National Police Force Integration Team, Combined Security Transition Command in Afghanistan. He served 34-1/2 years in uniform, and two of his children are Army officers who have served in the Af-



KELLEN STEPLER | FEATURES EDITOR

The Duquesne Political Science Department, the Political Science Club and Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society held a panel discussion called “The Afghanistan War and the 20th Anniversary of 9/11: A Retrospective and Look Forward. On the left is Clifford Bob, in the middle is Mark Haas, and on the right is Lewis Irwin.



CURTOSY OF UNSPLASH

“Events like this are important because it gives students a grasp on what’s going on in the world currently,” Codispot said.

ghanistan area.

“For us, this was real,” Irwin said. “It has had an effect on all of us for the last 20 years.”

In light of President Joe Biden’s withdrawal from Afghanistan, questions arose if the withdrawal of troops was irresponsible. Irwin said that while there are complex answers to this question, he notes that for 20 years, the United States has not been the victim of a major terrorist attack.

“On September 12, the national security establishment was waiting for the other shoe to drop. So far, God willing, that shoe hasn’t dropped,” he said.

He also noted that the United States military has really honed its craft in terms of the counterterrorism mission, and has capabilities today that did not exist 20 years ago. Additionally, an entire generation of Afghans were introduced to

the concept of personal freedom – something that previously consisted of nonstop warfare and persecution.

There was some goodness that came out of the war, Irwin said, but that’s not to say that staying there for 20 years wasn’t problematic from the start.

Haas currently doesn’t think there was a way to win, but wonders if an acceptable tie was possible, in which the status quo was a sustainable and accessible price in America’s interest.

Bob said that it was “highly irresponsible” for the United States to continue into Afghanistan for so many years, and to have the mission expanded. There were numerous other exit ramps out of Afghanistan – after bin Laden’s death 10 years ago, for example – but the “people at the top totally

lost sight of the mission.”

Citing the Afghanistan papers, Bob said that top government officials knew the war was unwinnable, yet they kept sending troops.

“I think irresponsibility was written all over this, and personally I think our withdrawal was long, long overdue,” Bob said.

Irwin explained that the military’s role is to execute whatever is asked of them by top government officials.

“Once we’re given the order, we carry out the order to the best of our ability,” Irwin said. The spirited discussion was the first of many that Duquesne Political Science club president Natalie Codispot wants to continue throughout the academic year.

“Events like this are important because it gives students a grasp on what’s going on in the world currently,” Codispot said.

Update: Indecent Assault Crime

The Duquesne Department of Public Safety sent out a crime alert update on Sept. 2 informing students that personnel arrested the male suspect reported to have committed the crime of indecent assault on a female student earlier in the week.

On Aug. 31, the female student reported that she was walking on Fifth Avenue at Chatham Square when a male approached her and “physically grabbed her buttocks.”

The suspect, Andrew Dean White, was arrested in the 1200 block of Fifth Avenue after he was spotted by a member of the Duquesne community. The person called public safety immediately.

Personnel responded to the report, and took the suspect into custody without incident, arraigned and placed into the Allegheny County Jail, the update said.

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

Source: DUPS

NFL gears up for another intriguing season

BRENTARO YAMANE
staff writer

As the National Football League prepares to kick off its 102nd season, there are many storylines that people are paying attention to, building an overall sense of excitement.

With the Covid-19 vaccine readily available, speculation arose about whether NFL players would be required to get the vaccine. As of right now, the league has not mandated the vaccine.

Popular players like Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson and Arizona Cardinals wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins have not been vaccinated, having expressed the opinion that taking the vaccine is a matter of personal choice.

With all 32 of the league's stadiums being permitted to operate at full capacity once again, teams will generate more revenue compared to last season, which is sure to make ownership groups across the league smile.

For the first time ever, the league's schedule will consist of 18 weeks (17 games per team). The league's tentative calendar includes multiple games being played on Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

The new schedule format does provide an advantage for half of the league, but a disadvantage for the other half. With a 17th game being added to each team's schedule, 16 teams will get nine home contests and eight road contests, while the other 16 teams will get eight home games and nine road games.

With some teams having an additional home game under the league's new format, that might provide some teams with some

extra home-field advantage throughout the duration of the regular season.

During every offseason, players join new teams via free agency. Whether that is to cash in after a strong prior season, or to prove one's value to a team by signing a cheap contract, many players have found new homes for this upcoming campaign.

Some notable players that signed with new teams during free agency were quarterback Andy Dalton (Chicago Bears), wide receiver A.J. Green and defensive end J.J. Watt (Cardinals), defensive end Jadeveon Clowney (Cleveland Browns) and linebacker Bud Dupree (Tennessee Titans).

Big-time acquisitions also occurred by way of the trade market. Some prominent trades that happened over the offseason were the Detroit Lions and Los Angeles Rams swapping quarterbacks Matthew Stafford and Jared Goff, offensive lineman Orlando Brown Jr. being sent from the Ravens to the Kansas City Chiefs and long-time Atlanta Falcons wide receiver Julio Jones being acquired by the Titans.

Additionally, lots of big-name rookies are set to make their NFL debuts after being drafted in April. Stars like Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback Trevor Lawrence and New England Patriots quarterback Mac Jones are ready to step into the bright lights after highly successful collegiate careers.

Other rookies such as Falcons tight end Kyle Pitts, Lions offensive tackle Penei Sewell and Dallas Cowboys linebacker Micah Parsons are all expected to have a major impact on their respective teams early in their professional careers.

While teams like the Kansas City Chiefs, Buffalo Bills, Cleveland Browns, Green Bay Packers and Seattle Seahawks are all

expected to be Super Bowl contenders, the team that people will be paying close attention to is Tampa Bay Buccaneers, the defending Super Bowl champion.

Quarterback Tom Brady returns for his 22nd season in the NFL and his second with the Buccaneers after spending the first 20 years of his career with the Patriots. The team only lost four players in free agency, and most of those players did not have a big role on last year's title team.

All 22 starters from Super Bowl LV will return to Tampa Bay this season, and with that in mind, it's hard not to see them as a favorite to win the title for the second consecutive season.

secutive season.

It's hard for people to not pay attention to the NFL when everyone is talking about games and pertinent news either on television or on social media. With that in mind, the league is set for what is expected to be another captivating season of football.

All 32 teams are set to be in action this week, with 14 of the league's 16 games scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 12.

The campaign is set to officially kick off this Thursday, Sept. 9, when the Buccaneers begin their quest for back-to-back titles against the Cowboys at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Fla.



LUKE HENNE / SPORTS EDITOR

After a 2020 season in which all 32 NFL teams either operated with capacity limitations or did not permit fans to attend games at all, every stadium is expected to be at full capacity for the start of the season.

DU product Kuntz named to Steelers' final roster

SPENCER THOMAS
staff writer

For the first time in 10 years, a former Duquesne football player will be on the sidelines for a regular-season National Football League game.

Christian Kuntz, a graduate of Duquesne University, was recently named to the Pittsburgh Steelers' 53-man roster, earning the job as the team's starting long snapper. He is the first Duke to earn an NFL roster spot since Leigh Bodden suited up for the New England Patriots in 2011.

In his career at Duquesne – which spanned from 2012 to 2016 – the graduate of nearby Chartiers Valley High School racked up an abundance of accolades.

Competing at the linebacker position, Kuntz was honored as part of the First Team All-Northeast Conference on three separate occasions (as a sophomore in 2013, as a junior in 2015 and as a senior in 2016). A left knee injury forced him to redshirt and miss all of the 2014 campaign.

In both the 2015 and 2016 seasons, Kuntz was selected as the NEC's Defensive Player of the Year. His performance in both seasons also led him to be selected as part of the

STATS FCS First Team All-America at the conclusion of each season.

He holds the NEC record for total sacks in a career with 30.5. His career mark of tackles for loss (71.5) is not only a Duquesne record, but is good enough for sixth all-time across the entire FCS level.

In the time since his departure from Duquesne, Kuntz bounced around in short preseason stints with the Patriots, Denver Broncos, Jacksonville Jaguars and Steelers. However, Kuntz had never been able to crack a team's final roster until this season.

After being waived by the Patriots – his first stop after college – Kuntz began focusing on a conversion from linebacker to long snapper.

Despite a four-year gap between his final college season and what will be his NFL debut, Kuntz still got a taste of competitive football. In 2020, he played for the Dallas Renegades during the short-lived reincarnation of the XFL (Xtreme Football League).

In addition to the preseason opportunities Kuntz had, he also had tryouts with the Houston Texans and Indianapolis Colts prior to the 2020 season. However, both tryouts proved to be unsuccessful.

After having been previously waived



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Christian Kuntz, seen here playing linebacker during a Duquesne football game vs. Sacred Heart on Nov. 12, 2016, was recently named to the Steelers' 53-man roster as the team's starting long snapper.

twice by the Steelers, he was signed to the team's practice squad on Nov. 24, 2020. He was released on Dec. 23, only to be re-signed on Dec. 29. Kuntz was let go yet again on Jan. 6, but was ultimately signed

to a reserve/futures contract on Jan. 14.

Kuntz is expected to make his NFL debut this Sunday, Sept. 12, when Pittsburgh opens its season at Highmark Stadium in Buffalo, N.Y., against the Buffalo Bills.

DU football downed by TCU in season opener

LUKE HENNE
sports editor

A common cliché in sports is that it’s hard for a team to win when they can’t score. It becomes even harder when the team strug-

after he released the ball.” While injuries are unavoidable in any contest, it was something TCU Head Coach Gary Patterson had hoped to steer clear of as much as possible in the season-opening affair. “The coach [Schmitt] and I, earlier in the

room at halftime. At that point, both head coaches agreed to play 12-minute quarters during the second half in order to help avoid any further injuries. “They asked to go down to 12 minutes and I agreed,” Patterson said. “They had about five or six guys that had gone out, so I think the heat had taken a toll on them. It was a good thing.”

The kickoff temperature of 94 degrees was certainly unusual for Duquesne. So was playing under the bright lights of a Big 12 Conference stadium filled with 35,000-plus spectators. Nevertheless, Schmitt was grateful for the opportunity his team got. “It’s a great experience. It’s a great place,” Schmitt said. “We stretched ourselves obviously. Our kids got to see that challenge.” Duquesne’s only points came about five minutes into the third quarter, when Brian Bruzdewicz capped off an eight-play, 57-yard drive with a 26-yard field goal.

Cyrus Holder caught two passes for 64 yards, while Davie Henderson caught the Dukes’ other completion for 12 yards. On the ground, the running back tandem of Garrett Owens and Billy Lucas combined for 58 yards.

On the defensive side of the ball, Leandro DeBrito posted eight tackles and an interception. The interception – which came in the second quarter – was the third of DeBrito’s career.

Spencer DeMedal also recorded 11 tackles, matching a career-high that was previously set in a 48-24 victory over Robert Morris on Oct. 13, 2018.

The game marked the Dukes’ third all-time trip to the state of Texas and their first since 1937. It was also Duquesne’s first game against a current member of the Big 12 since 1942.

“We’ve played some FBS in the past and we have some down the road here. It’s a great experience,” Schmitt said.

The Dukes will get another crack at an FBS opponent right away, as they’re set

to clash with Ohio at Peden Stadium this coming Saturday, Sept. 11.

In the event that Mischler is able to get back to full strength, he’d get a chance to face the school where his collegiate career started in 2019.



COURTESY OF MELISSA TRIEBWASSER
Members of the Duquesne offensive line try to push running back Billy Lucas forward for extra yardage. Lucas — last season’s NEC Offensive Rookie of the Year — rushed for 23 yards in the loss.



COURTESY OF MELISSA TRIEBWASSER
Duquesne defensive back Leandro DeBrito celebrates after his second-quarter interception.

gles to keep its opponent off the scoreboard. After allowing three first-quarter touchdowns, the Duquesne football team couldn’t catch up to TCU, ultimately falling to the Horned Frogs, 45-3, this past Saturday night at Amon G. Carter Stadium. Perhaps an even bigger loss for the Dukes came on the depth chart, as starting quarterback Joe Mischler left the game near the end of the first quarter after suffering a knee injury. “I don’t have anything official, but it is a knee,” Duquesne Head Coach Jerry Schmitt said during his postgame media session. “It was a rollout and I thought he got it clean. I couldn’t see from my side what happened

week on the phone, spoke about how during this game we want to make sure everyone stayed healthy,” Patterson told reporters postgame. “So, I feel really bad about that and for him [Mischler].” Mischler was relieved by Darius Perrantes, a Rhode Island transfer. Combined, the two quarterbacks struggled, completing just three of 12 passes for 76 yards and an interception. Overall, the Horned Frogs outgained the Dukes by nearly 300 yards (431 to 137) on offense. TCU also notched 26 first downs, while Duquesne was able to move the chains just six times. TCU took a 35-0 lead into the locker

Other NEC vs. FBS Scores from Week 1

*Buffalo over Wagner, 69-7

*FIU over Long Island, 48-10

*Eastern Michigan over St. Francis (Pa.), 35-15

College Football AP Top 25 Poll — Week 2

Rank	Team	Prev.	Overall	Streak	This Week
1.	Alabama	1	1-0	W1	vs. Mercer
2.	Georgia	5	1-0	W1	vs. UAB
3.	Ohio State	4	1-0	W1	vs. 12 Oregon
4.	Oklahoma	2	1-0	W1	vs. Western Carolina
5.	Texas A&M	6	1-0	W1	vs. Colorado
6.	Clemson	3	0-1	L1	vs. South Carolina State
7.	Cincinnati	8	1-0	W1	vs. Murray State
8.	Notre Dame	9	1-0	W1	vs. Toledo
9.	Iowa State	7	1-0	W1	vs. 10 Iowa
10.	Iowa	18	1-0	W1	at 9 Iowa State

Rank	Team	Prev.	Overall	Streak	This Week
11.	Penn State	19	1-0	W1	vs. Ball State
12.	Oregon	11	1-0	W1	at 3 Ohio State
13.	Florida	13	1-0	W1	at South Florida
14.	USC	15	1-0	W1	vs. Stanford
15.	Texas	21	1-0	W1	at Arkansas
16.	UCLA	NR	2-0	W2	Bye
17.	Coastal Carolina	22	1-0	W1	vs. Kansas
18.	Wisconsin	12	0-1	L1	vs. Eastern Michigan
19.	Virginia Tech	NR	1-0	W1	vs. Middle Tennessee
20.	Ole Miss	NR	1-0	W1	vs. Austin Peay

Rank	Team	Prev.	Overall	Streak	This Week
21.	Utah	24	1-0	W1	at BYU
22.	Miami (FL)	14	0-1	L1	vs. Appalachian State
23.	Arizona State	25	1-0	W1	vs. UNLV
24.	North Carolina	10	0-1	L1	vs. Georgia State
25.	Auburn	NR	1-0	W1	vs. Alabama State

6 ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Heinz Field kicks off sizzling season with ribs fest

CAPRI SCARCELLI
a&e editor

Nothing screams “kickoff to Heinz” more than... barbecue?

The “Heinz Field Kickoff and Rib Festival,” presented by Heinz and Miller Lite, is an annual welcoming to the Pittsburgh Steelers’ football season over Labor Day weekend. Getting its start in 1990 at what once was Three Rivers Stadium, Heinz Field has carried on its tradition of food, family and fun.

With an array of grills and tents lining Gate A and Gate B of the stadium, both local and out-of-town barbecue catering stations had onlookers milling the street to decide which ribs would take the prize. Free live performances were offered on Art Rooney Avenue throughout the day, with free tickets for live entertainment available at Stage AE by the time the sun sets. For kid-friendly activities, there were various rides, carnival games and “Steelers Experience Elements” at the ready for all ages.

Junior education major Erin

Wrisley said she noticed everyone at the festival was “there for the food and having a good time about it,” and ended up inviting her entire family.

“It was funny how excited my dad was about his rib choices — he made us check every booth before deciding on food,” Wrisley said.

Senior education major Jarrett Klunk said he enjoyed a “tri-tip platter” of ribs, sirloin and brisket and sat in the grass with friends, enjoying the atmosphere.

“It was a great time. I liked how there was a little country music, which reminded me of my hometown,” Klunk said. “It was a blast, and I would go again.”

As for the ribs themselves, this is a festival that puts the meats to the test. Each year, judges choose their top three favorite businesses, including categories in best ribs, best sauce and people’s choice, which is chosen by customers at the event who vote via text.

This year, the 2021 People’s Choice Award was Bad Azz BBQ, according to heinzfield.com/rib-



Heinz fans, ribs fans and fans from all over come together to celebrate a weekend of late-summer fun.

fest. Accompanied with a cash-only express line for just ribs, customers were sure to get a fast and friendly welcome to sample their self-proclaimed specialty.

According to Stacy Bradley, owner of Bad Azz BBQ, her dad started the business as a way to earn money to pay off her college degree. Over time, Bradley said she inherited the business during her college years and aimed to turn it into “a real business,” where she then started applying to festivals like the Heinz Field Kickoff. In their second year of running, Bad Azz BBQ came in first place for Best Ribs and Best Sauce; now, they have won awards for eight years in a row.

“We were the first woman-owned business to ever win Rib Fest, and the first local business to ever win it [as well],” Bradley said. “We decided to just keep running with it.”

Bradley said she has a “season-

ally-opened shop” on Becks Run Road right off of East Carson Street, open April 1 - Nov. 1 from 11-7 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. Otherwise, the business caters year-round.

Customers interested in checking out both the pickup and catering menu can go to badazzbbq.com for more information.

Senior education major Abby Lanzaletti said she enjoyed the Heinz Field Kickoff, and can’t wait to return next year.

“I got a pulled pork sandwich and it was one of the best things I’ve ever tasted,” Lanzaletti said. “The festival was so interesting and I have never experienced anything like it.”

Wrisley said that this event was close to home in more ways than one.

“It was absolutely surreal to sit on the steps of the stadium for the football team I have loved since I was a kid, just eating ribs.”



Jarrett Klunk (left), Faith Rhoads (middle) and Abby Lanzaletti (right) enjoy their leftover platters after the festival.

HOROSCOPES

Aquarius

“What generation are us.”
- Kellen Stepler

Pisces

Is prince charming actually handsome or were we told to think that.

Aries

You don't need an umbrella. Ever. (noted: not a witch).

Taurus

Would you like a gold star? Or a sticker sheet of the Megamind cast?

Gemini

Do the wobble but make it Duquesneable.

Cancer

Okay, but can you tell me what a frownie sundae is?

Leo

‘The Hunger Games’ but make it Broadway-bound.

Virgo

Don't cry over spilled milk, cry over mold!

Libra

Ah, the tower card... good luck.

Scorpio

HISSSS!

Sagittarius

A Mac Miller song a day keeps the swag... not away.

Capricorn

Van GOGH to the library this semester! (please)

WEEK'S EVENTS

Book Discussion: *The Only Plane in the Sky: An Oral History of 9/11*
Sept. 10 @ 12 p.m.

Join University Librarian Dr. Sara Baron and Oral Historian Casidee Knott on floor 4 of Gumberg Library for a discussion to commemorate the 20th anniversary of 9/11. RVSP on Campus Link.

DPC DU Nite: Tie-Dye
Sept. 10 @ 9 p.m.

Go to the Union Nite Spot for DIY Tie-Dye! Supplies limited.

Duquesne Night with the Pirates
Sept. 10 @ 6:30 p.m.

Stop by the Center of Student Involvement (Union 305) for \$10 tickets for the Pirates vs Nationals game!

Pittsburgh Zoo Trip
Sept. 11 @ 11:45 a.m.

Go to Union 305 for \$5 Zoo tickets (transportation and ticket covered!). Pickup @ 11:45 in front of the Union and drop off at 4 p.m.

CAPRI'S KIND WORDS

Mental Health Awareness

The month of September can be hard on mental health.

It's the start of a new school year and a new routine, it's an annual reminder of a national crisis, it's a month of preventative awareness for drug abuse and suicide.

There is a lot going on in the world around us, and sometimes it is difficult to keep up with the news and the flashiness of social media.

Try to lessen your screen time if you can. Talk to your loved ones. Limit your time watching the news for a bit.

Remember your impact on others: you truly never know how much you can positively influence someone's day by a simple wave or compliment.

It's the little things that matter, that can lift us up. If you are someone who can do that for others, someone will return the favor, too.

You are worthy of the love you give.

- Capri Scarcelli

Pittsburgh concert venues open the stage to live music

JACOB YANOSICK
staff writer

The hiatus of concerts is coming to an end, with venues reopening and artists returning to tour life, with Pittsburgh being no exception. The major venues of the area such as Stage AE, PPG Paints Arena and The Pavilion at Star Lake have all become active again in announcing new dates of many major artists and shows. Although, with new shows brings up the question that has become regular in today's world: how to do it safely in an ongoing pandemic.

Both Stage AE and The Pavilion at Star Lake have announced their entry guidelines — both of which are already in effect, but will become stricter starting next month.

Stage AE requires either a photo or copy of a full vaccination card or a negative Covid-19 test within 72 hours, both along with a photo ID. After Oct. 1st, this changes to only allowing fully vaccinated people to attend concerts. According to their website, promowestlive.com/pittsburgh, “The message we want to send is simple and clear: the only way to be as safe as possible is to require



KAILEY LOVE | PHOTO EDITOR

Stage AE in the North Shore prepares for in-person performances and audiences as government mandates grant permission for events.

everyone to be vaccinated.”

The Pavilion at Star Lake has currently adopted a more relaxed policy. The venue has been announcing policies on a show-to-show basis, which appears to be the same as Stage AE's current policy — proof of full vac-

cination or a negative Covid-19 test. However, since this policy is only being announced on a show-to-show basis, it isn't clear how much this is being enforced. The venue has announced a universal policy that goes into effect after Oct. 4th, where they

require either full vaccination or a negative Covid-19 test within 72 hours.

Sophomore political science major Robbie Zurawsky said he thinks the precautions should be “at the discretion of each venue.”

“The venues should still con-

sider the CDC guidelines, but a majority are vaccinated. Go out if you're comfortable and stay home if you're sick.”

With these new restrictions in place, the venues have spared no time in announcing a plentiful lineup of artists across all genres that are performing in the upcoming months.

Stage AE:

9-30 – Don Toliver
10-3 – Madeon
10-12 – \$uicideboy\$
10-22 – Angels & Airwaves
10-24 – Kevin Gates
10-25 – Porter Robinson
11-10 – Gary Clark Jr.
11-21 – Chevelle

PPG Paints Arena:

9-17 – Dan + Shay The (Arena) Tour
9-25 – Alabama 50th Anniversary Tour
10-9 – Eric Church
10-14 – Harry Styles

Pavilion at Star Lake:

9-28 – NF
10-1 – Zac Brown Band
10-6 – Jonas Brothers
10-9 – Lil Baby w/ Lil Durk

'Soul Food Fest' celebrates local Black-owned businesses

ANDREW CUMMINGS
multimedia editor

Over Labor Day weekend, Market Square held “Soul Food Fest,” an event that celebrates the history of Pittsburgh's Black-owned food businesses. Food, festivities, live music and art could all be found in Market Square from Sept. 2-5.

“Soul Food Fest” started in 2019 as a one-day event, and did not occur in 2020. The 2021 event was expanded to four days.

At the festival, attendees could try a variety of different

foods. There was barbecue, funnel cakes, ice cream, sausage and more. For some of the stands, the lines stretched all the way across the square.

Rotem Kaufman and Ivan Schmidt, two locals who had come from a Pitt football game, said that they had been waiting in line for food for 30 minutes.

“The food here, it smells so good,” Kaufman said.

Schmidt added, “We've been in line for a little bit here...but I'm hopeful for the food.”

The busyness of the festival shows its popularity, and that

people in Pittsburgh are eager to get out and participate in community events.

Valerie Threets, an art vendor at “Soul Food Fest,” said how the festival is a great opportunity for various ethnicities in Pittsburgh to come together peacefully. Threets mentioned the communal aspect for the Black community, and noted the considerable participation from non-Blacks in the event.

In addition to food, there were various pieces of clothing and art. There were stands selling paintings, rings, sunglasses and dresses.

There was also live music at the



ANDREW CUMMINGS | PHOTO EDITOR

Market Square lights up the evening with an array of businesses locally-owned to share food, stories and hand-crafted artifacts to celebrate Pittsburgh's Black community.

festival, including DJs, jazz, gospel and even a Michael Jackson tribute band.

“Soul Food Fest” helps support local and Black-owned businesses,

in more ways than one.

For more information, go to @ASoulfulTasteOfTheBurgh on Facebook or PghBlackLegacy.com.

Upcoming Irish festival offers fun for all ages

EMMA POLEN
layout editor

The annual Pittsburgh Irish Festival is being hosted September 10-12th at The Lots in Sandcastle; there will be plenty of Irish foods and tunes!

Duquesne's own Rev. Sean Hogan will be in attendance at this event. In fact, he will be giving Mass on

Sunday, Sept. 12th, at 10 a.m.

Food vendors will provide traditional Irish cuisine, including an Irish stew bowl from Mairin's Irish Kitchen and Shepherd's Pie, Dublin Coddle and Bangers and Mash from McCarrick's. Tara Tea's booth will sell a unique assortment of alcoholic beverages including Irish coffee and Irish iced lemonade tea.

One of the main events at the festival is the live music. Performers will be circulating all day, and Gealic Storm will make an appearance Sunday afternoon. Other musical guests include The Wild Geese, a Pittsburgh-based group that adds their own energy to old-school Irish pub music, and The Bow Tides, a trio of Gaelic Storm fiddle-play-

ers who are performing together for the first time in-person at the Pittsburgh festival.

Pittsburgh is also showing off its Irish tradition with other entertainment. The Shovlin Academy of Irish Dancing teaches traditional Irish Dance to students ranging from five-years-old to late teens. Irish comedians including Sean Finnerty — who

made his debut as the first Irish comedian to perform on Jimmy Fallon's the Tonight Show in 2019 — will also be present to share their western European humor.

All information about vendors and entertainment courtesy of pghirishfest.org

THE DUKES DUKE

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“If we learn nothing
else from this tragedy,
we learn that life
is short and there is
no time for hate.”

SANDY DAHL, WIFE OF
FLIGHT 93 PILOT, JASON
DAHL

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

@TheDuquesneDuke

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

Corrections/clarifications

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

Contact

email: theduquduke@gmail.com

The 20th anniversary of 9/11 calls for responsibility with Afghanistan



ANDREW CUMMINGS | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

An American flag flies above A-Walk on Duquesne's campus. The anniversary of 9/11 is on Saturday.

Nearly 20 years ago, Americans all across the country watched in horror the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, leaving nearly 3,000 people dead in New York, Washington and Shanksville, Pa.

Four commercial airliners struck the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania. The bravery of the passengers, the workers and our first responders was extraordinary.

The power of 9/11 has stuck with us, even to this day. An overwhelming amount of people remember where they were, what they were doing — and those not old enough to remember — are still taught the importance of the origin of the war on terrorism.

Just 20 years later, we watched, yet again, as the mission, which started just after 9/11 in Afghanistan, came to a bloody end.

The post-9/11 era concluded with the Taliban reclaiming control of the country that served as a base for the historical attack on the nation, coming full-circle as we remember the day.

The mission, code-named first Operation Enduring Freedom and then Operation Freedom's Sentinel, was a tremendous bipartisan investment spanning the terms of four presidents; it failed, ending with Americans and Afghans alike fleeing Kabul.

Starting as a mission of counterterrorism, the goal changed to one of nation building — that's when the mission creep began. The original mission was achievable, and for the most part, successful, but ultimately the Taliban were going to reclaim the country as soon as the U.S. pulled out — no matter how much time and money we put into it.

After nearly 20 years, \$1 trillion dollars and focused military involvement, the attempts to reform Afghanistan's military and political structure, and destroy terrorist ideology was reduced to a waste of time in a matter of days.

Debates will continue over whether the U.S. should have kept military presence, but it seems, at this point, most Americans wanted out anyway, arguing that our priorities should remain more domestic in nature.

The history of U.S. involvement in Afghanistan goes back too far to recount each step, with troops constantly being



ZOE STRATOS
opinions editor

sent and pulled out during the Obama administration, as well as the Trump administration.

It's hard to say what the correct decision is in these so-called forever wars; a humanitarian side would want peace and safety for the people, especially the women, of Afghanistan, but realistically, the back and forth of attacks and peace treaties would spiral endlessly for who knows how many years — to no avail.

Knowing the truth and push back regarding the Vietnam War,

President Biden was correct in his decision to forego the rosy reports about the progress of the war in Afghanistan, and instead pull out the troops before the inevitable Taliban victory. But it shouldn't have ended with such chaos, and with little thought for citizens who sacrificed so much for a better Afghanistan.

For years, Afghans worked alongside American aid until suddenly on Aug. 15, they found themselves stranded. Even the president, Ashraf Ghani, fled as the Taliban swept the capital.

Responsibility lies with both parties, but the Biden administration must make it right.

The Biden administration should have taken more care to protect those who risked everything in pursuit of a better future, while also reaffirming the U.S.'s strength as a global hegemon.

The disastrous total pull-out undermines the claim that “America is back,” and the damage of international affairs is two-fold moving forward in the Biden administration.

First, it will bring about the belief that American power is in decline, allowing for other global powers to rise and sow distrust into the fold. Second, the disregard for the lives of Afghans will cause allies to doubt U.S. commitment to multilateralism and international cooperation.

Domestically, the failed mission is recoverable. With 9/11 at the forefront of media attention this week, putting his focus into pandemic efforts and an all around sense of patriotism will quell the minds of some Americans.

But in this time, we can never forget the events of 9/11, and the events of Afghanistan.

Both are cemented in our history, and we have to take responsibility for our response, no matter the subject, within and beyond our borders.

STAFF EDITORIAL

NIL rights are crucial for student athletes

On June 30, there was an update to the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) policy on how they view name, image and likeness (NIL). The new policy allowed all NCAA Division 1, Division 2, and Division 3 student-athletes to be compensated for their NIL beginning July 1.

NIL is a person's brand, which stems from the legal concept known as the right of publicity. Examples of this include a person's autograph, developing or modeling clothing apparel and promoting products and services.

With the NCAA accepting this policy, student athletes can now profit off of their personal brand through participating in non-athletically related promotional activities adjacent to their commitment to their college as a student athlete.

Students should be able to prosper off of their personal brand. It is a new opportunity granted to student athletes that was not a possibility in the past.

There have been many debates on whether or not student athletes should be able to endorse a commercial product or service. Under former NCAA guidelines, students could not participate in ‘pay for play.’ This refers to an athlete being paid for their athletic abilities or their endorsement of a product as a college athlete.

When a student athlete competes in a Division I school they are bound by a contract, also known as a Letter of Intent, where a student agrees to compete for the school in their sport and in trade the school gives some form of financial aid.

Because the student is essentially being paid by the university for their athletic ability, they cannot be paid by an outside company for the same purpose, as this would be in violation of the contract.

With NIL, students are able to bypass this rule in a sense; they are able to get paid for non-athletic related endorsement, but it is endorsement nonetheless.

It is important for an athlete to gain exposure, because it not only gets their name out there on social media platforms, but it allows them to participate in highly valued brand deals. A student athlete's time is often soaked up by practices or games, not allowing for job opportunities that other students have. In this case, an athlete can make a name for themselves, while also making a profit.

NIL can also affect the recruiting process. High school athletes hoping to become collegiate athletes must go through a series of recruiting processes in order to get signed. As of right now high schoolers cannot participate in any form of NIL, jeopardizing their eligibility if they do.

High school associations have yet to regulate NIL, although there is talk about the development of different rules in the future.

Allowing student athletes to participate in NIL is an improvement with the NCAA guidelines in place; this is a huge leap forward in the world of collegiate athletics, and hopefully, one day high school level athletics as well.

Roll the credits, drop the curtains: movie theaters are overrated

EMMA POLEN
layout editor

Last weekend, I went to see “Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings” at my local AMC theater. After over a year of conveniently streaming new movies from my TV, my movie theater experience did not encourage me to go back to public theaters.

Covid-19 permanently changed the way new movies were released. Before March 2020, it was very rare that new movies would be available on streaming platforms on the same date they were released in theaters. Since last year, though, movie patrons had very little reason to visit a theater while streaming services provided all new releases on their platforms.

Movie theater shut-downs forced entertainment companies to reevaluate the market. For some studios, this has meant major losses in the box office. For others, like Disney, it provided an opportunity to test alternative release methods. Disney+ was launched in November 2019 — just a few months before Covid-19 related shutdowns. Subscribers can skip the wait and watch new movies for \$30 with premiere access. Even with the hefty price tag, streaming is still more convenient than driving to watch a new release in theaters.

Recall that in March of 2020, “Trolls World Tour” was advertised to be released in theaters. When Covid-19 forced theaters

to close, Universal Studios moved the movie’s release to digital-only premiere access.

According to the Wall Street Journal, “Trolls World Tour” made about \$100 million off of digital rentals alone. For comparison, the original Trolls movie earned about \$150 million in total box office sales, according to boxofficemojo.com, a reliable box office tracker.

While these numbers seem significantly different, Wall Street Journal said, “They [studios] retain about 80% of the rental or purchase fee — compared with about 50% of box-office sales.” So my question is: Why aren’t more studios changing the way they release movies?

According to The Hollywood Reporter, AMC and Warner Bros. struck a deal so that all new movies released in 2022 will be exclusively available at AMC theaters for the first 45 days, and then they will move to Warner Bros.’ streaming platform HBO Max.

While 45 days sounds like a long time, The Hollywood Reporter noted that many theaters had a hold on new movies for 90 days before releases to any other platform pre-pandemic. At least this is promising: It means that studios have cut that anticipatory new movie wait in half.

In addition to the availability of new movies on online streaming services, there are a few factors of watching at home that I took for granted until visiting

the theater last week.

First of all, as someone with a small bladder, I appreciate my friends pausing the movie so that I can run to the bathroom. Every time I leave a movie, something important happens.

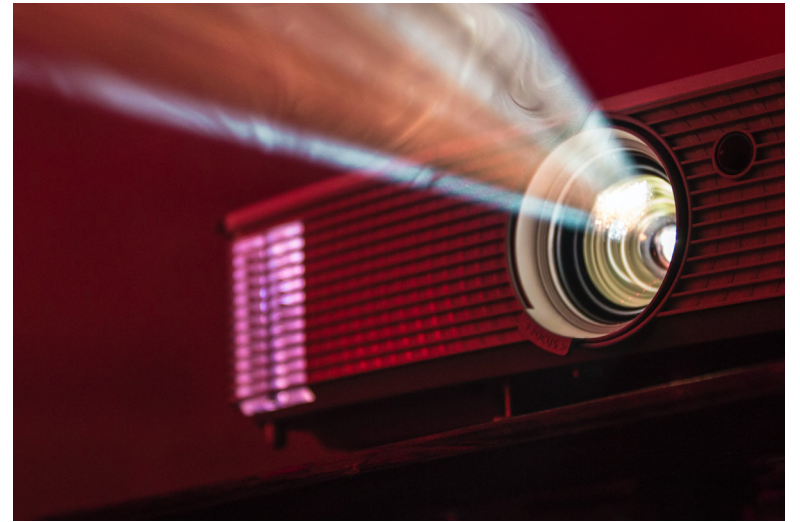
Secondly, film volume is notoriously inconsistent. One minute you can barely hear what a character is saying, and the next you are blasted out of your seat by a “Rocky” music montage.

The volume is finicky at both a movie theater and at home, but at least with my own remote I can turn the sound down on a crazy Michael Bay explosion or I might even rewind if I miss someone’s dialogue.

The third reason watching movies in a theater has lost its charm since the pandemic is the awkwardness of strangers. How do I know the person coughing next to me is just choking on popcorn and doesn’t have Covid-19?

At home, I also take for granted the free cost of living. Coming from a large family, the cost for all of us to go to the movies is \$87.50. Sitting in my parents’ living room is absolutely free.

For some families, the theater experience might be worth it. For my family, with little children who cannot sit still, are constantly confusing the plotline and whisper-shouting, “What is actually happening?” and altogether act like nuisances regardless of whether we see a movie in a theater or at home, it’s not worth the money.



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

After the pandemic, projectors became a popular purchase for viewing movies.

The cost of tickets is not the only shudder-inducing purchase at the movies. I like having something to crunch while viewing a film, but I don’t want to pay \$6 for a popcorn box. I also like to have water with me (hence the frequent bathroom breaks) but I like when it’s free at my house; I don’t like having to pay \$4 for cold water.

I understand that now more than ever movie theaters need to make a profit. Regardless, \$12.50 is a lot to just sit in public for over two hours, especially if they want to charge an additional \$10 for sustenance during the production.

Another reason traditional theaters are going out of style is the increasing availability of home theaters to everyday people.

This summer it was almost im-

possible to get my hands on a nice projector because of the high demand. While most 4K-HD quality systems are a little pricey, movie-watchers were desperately bored this summer and they had stimulus checks to spend. When I finally received my projector in the mail, it became apparent why they became popular during the pandemic.

Projectors can be set up outside, providing a Covid-19-safe environment for inviting friends over and hanging out together. Plus, the picture and sound quality of a movie played on a projector is surprisingly fantastic.

And instead of having to sit scarily close to strangers chowing down on nachos, I get to sit with my friends for free on the comfort of my own lawn.

You should be playing on console over PC when it comes to gaming

CHRISTIANA CATES
staff columnist

The infamous console versus personal computer (PC) wars have escalated ever since the continuation of growth of video games on both platforms in the modern era.

Console gaming is played with a video game console, such as the Xbox Series X/S, PlayStation 5 (PS5) and the Nintendo Switch. The console is usually hooked into a TV or monitor and operated with its signature controller.

When it comes to PC gaming, you would most likely use a mouse and keyboard to operate the game itself while viewing a monitor. But some PC players use console controllers to play the game on PC.

When looking at the variety of options to choose from when gaming, a video game console has some clear advantages over PC, and PC has some advantages over video game consoles as well.

In terms of console gaming, take a look at the Xbox Series X/S, which features the visual stimuli of a lighted electronic device. The signature X lights up in the front of the console when powering it up.

After the power up sequence,

users are greeted by a dashboard which allows you to navigate in between the home screen and other pages, such as the Xbox store, your gamer profile, and the video games and apps section.

On Xbox you are connected with people in the Xbox network, adding friends by their Xbox gamer tag (name) and generally playing with friends who are on your friends list. You can communicate in a party (group chat) with a headset that’s usually connected to your controller, and then with your party, you can play games while connected to a personal voice channel.

The feel of owning a gaming device full of simplicity and visual appeal gives off a general feel of accomplishment as a gamer. Sporting the brand with its signature controller and X logo creates a sense of pride and community that differs from PC gaming.

In terms of PC gaming you have a monitor from the brand of your liking, whether that would be: HP, Dell, Acer, Samsung, etc. The monitor is accompanied by your keyboard/mouse or a gaming console controller.

PC gaming is very solo oriented, in that you typically do not have a community, identity, or special network to be engaged with on

PC. While PC does have advanced gaming graphics, speed, and higher quality above console when playing games — the experience is a bit lonely, nevertheless.

PC gaming does have its advantages, typically when games are released they are prioritized to be released on PC first.

The Xbox Series X/S and the PS5 can miss out on certain games, based on whether the game is an exclusive for that specific console or not. Gaming companies can choose to release the game on both consoles as well.

PC typically updates faster, along with the initial releases. For example, in the video game Rainbow Six Siege, a tactical shooter (as well as a FPS), the operators are released on PC first, then console players must wait for the release afterwards — maybe by days or weeks. That is one positive to PC.

Even with the flashiness and priority of PC, there is no experience comparable to that of a gaming console.

The hype culture that surrounds gaming events is mostly catered to console gamers.

At the Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3), every year the gaming showcase/event features a specific section and display of the Xbox or



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

The new Xbox Series X was released in November of 2020 costing \$500.

PlayStation game releases, owners and representatives of the brand.

E3 previously revealed Project Scorpio and Project Scarlett (the Xbox One and the Xbox Series X/S) codenames for the consoles, which created great excitement and anticipation for the new consoles. The thrill was there for every Xbox fan when the representatives showcased the features on a live stage, through live gameplay, pre-recorded gameplay and game trailers.

PC simply does not get the same luxury of a showcase as each player’s setup varies with different brand names forming their gaming setup.

The uniformity and fanbase of consoles provides the hype around gaming unlike any other platform.

When considering whether or not to buy a console or stick to PC, the choice is yours. But the feeling of pride to own a PlayStation or Xbox is unparalleled.

Shipping it old-school with Pittsburgh Private Postal

RIO SCARCELLI
staff writer

Who thought the new wave would be writing letters? For fifth-year student Maura Fleming, this was her exact thought when creating Pittsburgh Private Postal: an anonymous, pen-pal exchange program. Pittsburgh Private Postal will start Sept. 13 and run through the rest of the semester.

"I wanted to give students a way to make a friend," Fleming said. "I know especially for current freshman and sophomore students, a lot of the past year-and-a-half has been all remote. They have not had much of a chance to get out on campus and make those kinds of connections."

To make her idea a reality, Fleming found herself posting her idea to Unpack U: a Pittsburgh-based project that sponsors college students looking to better the mental health of the community through innovative ideas. Fleming created the concept by herself, so having a sponsor was the next step in advancing her project.

"Unpack U had a competition called U Prize where university students would post ideas that they thought would better their campus or promote mental health. They would talk about their project, how much they believe it would cost and what supplies would be necessary to make this a reality," Fleming said.

After advancing through the first round, a second session of applications narrowed the selection down to 14 participants and ideas. Each of the recipients received a mentor, and Fleming's is the Penguins Foundation.

The ideas do not have to stop at Pittsburgh Private Postal. Unpack U is now holding their second round of applications for students with ideas, Fleming said. Pitches and budgets are due by Sept. 17.



COURTESY OF MAURA FLEMING

Maura Fleming advertises her program, Pittsburgh Private Postal, during the Student EXPO on A-Walk last week.

The associates from the Penguins Foundation gave Fleming tips on budgeting, posting on social media and advertising within the area. Advertisements then gave way to getting an estimate on the amount of materials needed.

"A lot of the funds went to stamps and envelopes. I ordered stickers for everyone, and I gathered some prizes donated from the Penguin's Foundation and from the grant itself," Fleming said. "Anyone who currently signs up gets automatically entered into a Pittsburgh Penguins giveaway that could include hats, bobbleheads and t-shirts."

Social media was her best asset in creating a buzz for the project, Fleming said. She contacted other recipients of U Prize to encourage them to spread the word at their own universities and convince others to join the program.

"Right now, I have mostly Duquesne

students. However, I have other locations such as Point Park, Robert Morris and even people all the way from the University of Tennessee. It is mainly Pittsburgh students; however, I have opened up the sign ups to everyone that is interested on social media," Fleming said.

Sign ups run through Sept. 13 and can be found on @pghpostal or her website.

"I am trying to match people up based on similar answers to forms, and so I have to go through all the responses to find that out," Fleming said. "After what felt like a million tries, I divided the questions into gender-identity, preference, interests, hobbies and what questions felt comfortable to the recipient. I asked the question: 'If I was doing this, what would I feel comfortable saying?'"

After receiving their match, the participant is given a stack of envelopes, stamps and stickers. Supplies will be held in the Duquesne Student Union building for two

days after the shipment is received. Each participant is given a number. The even numbers start writing, and the odd numbers return the first message.

Writing is a vulnerable activity, and Fleming wanted to make the environment as comfortable as possible for the pen-pals in creating a relationship.

"We do not want to make this too much of a time commitment because people have classes and other things going on in their lives. The program is expected to write around three letters back and forth to one-another through the semester. At the end, my goal is to send a questionnaire to see if people want to know who their pen-pal is or keep it anonymous," she said.

Since her social media was created, Fleming has received lots of positive feedback from students participating on campus.

Sophomore music education student Maddie Rivers said she felt very excited to know there was a program like Pittsburgh Private Postal in the area. The idea of making a connection was something Rivers is eager to do.

"Since leaving for college last year, one of my favorite things has been writing letters to my friends who are either at school or still at home," Rivers said. "It is a great way to keep in touch and I love getting mail. So, when I heard about the Private Postal Program, it seemed right up my alley."

The ultimate goal for Fleming when making Pittsburgh Private Postal was to provide students an outlet to express themselves and take time away from social media.

"I say go for it because you never know where [the letters] can lead to. It is not a large time commitment at all," Rivers said. "Writing letters can take anywhere from around five-to-ten minutes for me. It feels very therapeutic for a lot of people and it is a good and healthy way to express your emotions to someone who cares."

New Grab-and-Go food option available in Union

EMILY AMBERY
staff writer

Switch up your lunch routine and explore the local Pittsburgh food scene from the comfort of the second floor of the Union. Open from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, Connections is Duquesne's newest dining spot for convenient on-the-go treats.

Stop by for breakfast featuring Coffee Tree Roasters coffee and Potomac Bakery doughnuts and pastries, or lunch which features dining services favorites and Salem's Market. Connections accepts meal plan flex, PLUS, cash and credit card.

"We wanted to create a space in the heart of campus, where it would benefit the most students, that offers fast and convenient premium Grab'NGo salads, sandwiches, sushi, coffee, breakfast pastries and healthy side dishes" said David Manz, resident district manager of Parkhurst Dining at Duquesne.

Students and guests can enjoy rotating dining service favorites such as: chicken Caesar salad, steakhouse salad, sushi, pulled pork BBQ, General Tso's chicken, buffalo mac & cheese and other house-made favorites. They can also enjoy authentic Halal meals and sides like curry chicken, chicken tikka masala, spinach paneer, baba ghanoush and fresh hummus from Salem's Market.

Located in the Strip District on Penn Ave, Salem's Market and Grill has been a Pittsburgh staple since 1983. Originally a supplier of Halal meats, the establishment grew into Salem's market and Grill. While still supplying Halal meats and other middle eastern ingredients through the Market, it now serves the meals available at Connections and more through the Grill.

In the future, Duquesne Dining Services is planning to add foods and products from additional local partners throughout the academic year.

There is no shortage of caffeine at Connections. The new site offers Coffee Tree Roasters and STök Cold Brew.

"The Pittsburgh community benefits through our Dining Services partnerships that enable us to feature great local brands like Salem's middle eastern market, Coffee Tree Roasters coffee and Potomac Bakery pastries and donuts," Manz said. "Every purchase at Connections is investing back into the Pittsburgh community."

Next to Connections is the new permanent Millie's Homemade Ice Cream kiosk. After several pop-up shops at Duquesne, Millie's has now become a permanent part of campus.



EMILY AMBERY / STAFF WRITER

Connections offers food options with a local Pittsburgh flavor.

Millie's is open from 4:30 to 10 p.m. every day and accepts Flex, cash, credit or debit and PLUS. Millie's is a very popular local business and has a strong following on campus.

"Millie's is where we go for a celebratory Friday ice cream with friends, so we were really excited when it became a permanent part of campus," said Lucy Barber, sophomore occupational therapy major. "It is always really fun to see all the flavors and toppings, I also appreciate that they have vegan and dairy

free options."

Connections and Millie's take a space that has been previously dormant for most of last semester.

"My favorite thing about Connections is the wide variety of breakfast food options they have, like their bagels, sticky buns and cinnamon rolls," said Vivian Chan, sophomore occupational therapy major. "It's also a great spot to pick up a quick snack on the way back from classes."

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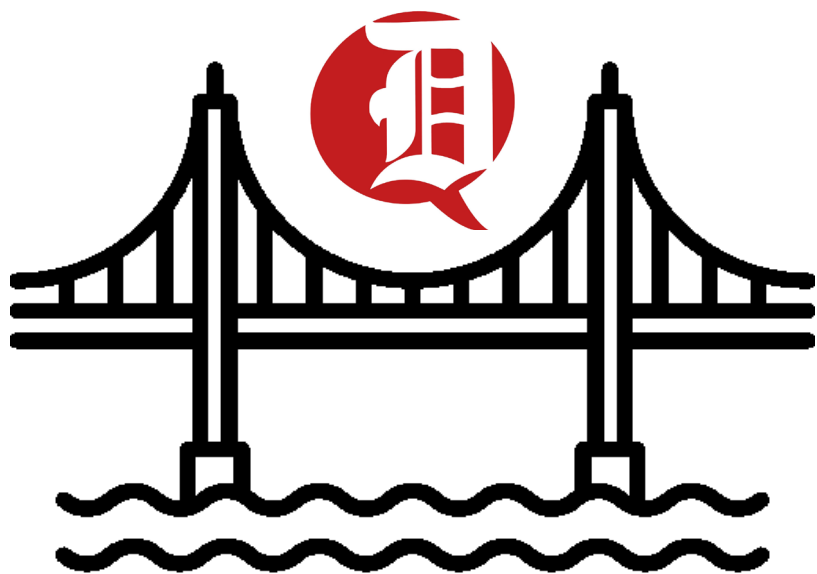
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