

sports	a & e	opinions	features
Football earns first NEC win Dukes defeat Merrimack 37-14 PAGE 4	Lights, camera, 'psycho!' The Red Masquers prepare for their opening night of <i>Psycho Beach Party</i> . PAGE 6	Welcome Back Britney...almost Britney Spears fights back in court PAGE 9	Spooky Season Fall Events in the Burgh PAGE 10

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Foreign language requirement drifts away under the "Bridges," faculty reacts

Students respond to language requirement change

KELLEN STEPLER
features editor

Students in the McAnulty College of Liberal Arts are split when it comes to the foreign language proficiency requirement.

The foreign language proficiency requirement has brought mixed opinions from Duquesne students. In 2016, The Duke reported that some students were unhappy with the education they were receiving within the department.

However, Huth said that while some students complain about the requirement, they also "complain about a lot of things."

"Are you going to cut every requirement that students decide to complain about?" she wrote. Although the decision has not been publicly announced, the reaction of students within the liberal arts college has been mixed.

Molly Cate Olson, a freshman psychology and history major, hasn't taken a foreign language at Duquesne yet. She would only do so if it were required.

"Most high schools require a few years of language, and most students at Duquesne don't go here to major in language or have plans to go abroad after they graduate," she said.

see STUDENTS— page 1



ANDREW CUMMINGS | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

This bulletin board illustrates students participating in language-based activities.

KELLEN STEPLER
features editor

Spanish professor Lucia Osa-Melero said that during a faculty meeting last week, she and her colleagues were devastated by news that the provost's office was "strongly thinking" of canceling the foreign language proficiency requirement for liberal arts majors.

"It was devastating for the morale," Osa-Melero said. "The department felt so devastated by the end of that meeting."

Osa-Melero said that in the Zoom meeting last week, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures faculty were told by the dean and associate dean that the foreign language proficiency requirement is affecting prospective students' decisions to pursue an undergraduate degree in the liberal arts college.

"I don't understand how it affects the recruiting negatively, but that's what they told us," she said.

Duquesne recently transitioned to a new core curriculum called Bridges, which no longer includes any foreign language requirement.

Gabe Welsch, a spokesperson for the university, said despite the change, individual departments in the McAnulty College of Liberal Arts can still require some foreign language proficiency if they choose.

cy if they choose.

Further, he said that students currently enrolled in foreign languages can "persist" finishing the proficiency requirement if they choose. It is up to individual departments to determine which majors require the 202 foreign language proficiency requirement.

"Advisors are prepared to coach students on their options," he said.

However this decision did not sit well with Duquesne senior Alyson Huth. Huth said she was drawn to Duquesne for its emphasis on global cultures, so that she could pursue her studies while taking a foreign language. Huth, a senior French tutor, majors in both Public Relations and French – the latter of which she self-designed.

"One of the things that sets Duquesne apart from other universities is the fact that we put so much emphasis on global engagement, global awareness and modern languages in general," Huth said in an interview with The Duke Monday.

In a petition Huth created on the platform change.org Monday afternoon, she wrote, "We are fighting to prove that languages are a valuable asset to a university education and to save the foreign language department by keeping the foreign language proficiency requirement, which is a defining

feature of a Duquesne University liberal arts degree."

As of Wednesday evening, the petition had 130 signatures. She also wrote letters to upper-level university administration protesting the move.

When Huth emailed Provost David Dausey Tuesday voicing her concerns, Associate Provost Darlene Weaver responded with a further explanation of Bridges.

"Bridges was created over a three-year process that involved hundreds of faculty, staff and students. One of the goals of our curriculum revision is to increase students' flexibility. This includes eliminating prescriptive 'cores within the core' so that students are better able to tailor their elective requirements in keeping with their career aspirations and intellectual interests," Weaver wrote in the email Huth shared with the Duke.

"I assure you that any student who wishes to take language courses, minor in a foreign language, or major in a foreign language can continue to do so. Moreover, departments in the college can retain a language proficiency requirement as an element within particular majors," Weaver wrote to Huth.

Welsch did not answer a request seeking comment about the petition.

-What is going on in the Mod-

ern Languages department?-

The proficiency in a foreign language general education requirement traditionally takes a student four semesters to complete. However, students may take a placement exam to test into a more advanced level to achieve the 202 proficiency requirement, rather than starting at the 101 level.

The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at Duquesne offers courses in six languages – Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese Culture and Spanish.

The "college core" that required the foreign language proficiency was exclusive to liberal arts degrees at Duquesne. However, with the implementation of the Bridges Common Learning Experience this semester, the "college core" and UCOR classes that all students take have merged into one for liberal arts students – thus, phasing out the UCOR curriculum.

Modern Languages and Literatures department chair Mark Frisch declined an interview Monday, citing the "fluid" nature of the situation. But former department chair Edith Krause, who retired in the spring, said that "there is a great lack of attention given to language learn-

see LANGUAGE— page 2

New Bridges requirement snuffs out foreign languages

from STUDENTS—page 1

Freshman marketing major and French minor Grace Heaton is currently taking French and German and hopes to take some Italian classes as well. She is taking some of her foreign language classes as an elective because she believes language study is an important skill to have, she said.

Heaton does not agree with the decision to eliminate the foreign language requirement. “Duquesne preaches the promotion of an access to a global education, and languages are an integral part of that education,” Heaton said. “If we are supposed to be ambassadors of our school and of the USA, people studying abroad should have at least a basic understanding of a foreign language.”

While Heaton is only a freshman, she said she thinks her already existing knowledge of French and German has grown so much during her short time at Duquesne.

“When I was originally looking at colleges, one of my biggest considerations was the language programs,” she said. “I wanted to be at a school that promoted language study and made global education a priority. I loved how Duquesne [promoted] said global education and also seemingly had the language programs to accompany it.”

Zach Buckler, a junior Digital Media Arts major, is currently taking his third semester of German as a requirement. “I know it’s been a major complaint from Liberal Arts students even before I attended Duquesne, because I remember my advisor telling me that it was the top issue for students in the McNulty College,” he said. “I also struggle greatly with my foreign language classes, as do all my friends, mostly because it feels so disconnected and unnecessary regarding our liberal arts majors, like Digital Media Arts.”

Buckler said that he would be “more than glad” to drop the foreign language proficiency requirement and that most of the students in his foreign language class are only taking it for the graduation requirement.

“This would mean that after the language requirement would drop, the number of students enrolled and classes available for foreign language would drop significantly,” he

said. “Though this seems negative, it would allow students and professors alike to focus their commitment and studies toward classes they actually want to take and that will actually benefit them in the future, unlike the current system that just feels unnecessary and intentionally time-wasting.” Junior digital media arts major Sam Ruffino is currently taking Spanish as a required course for his major. He said he agrees with the idea that college students should be required to take at least a foreign language class during their undergraduate career.

“I feel as though students in this country don’t get enough exposure to different cultures and languages, and learning this through foreign language courses helps broaden horizons, and enhance global literacy,” Ruffino said.

However, Ruffino acknowledged that four classes of a foreign language “is a bit excessive if its [relevance] does not apply to your field of study.”

“Ultimately, I would agree with the decision to omit this requirement because I think, especially in later years of schooling, it is important to focus more on major-specific courses,” Ruffino said. “I do enjoy the cultural exposure these classes give me, and the professors have been for the most part very helpful, but it is very time consuming. The most amount of time I have spent doing homework each night over the past four semesters has typically been in Spanish.”

In the era of language-learning apps like Duolingo or Babble, sophomore environmental science major Rosie Spinola said it’s “more sensible” to do an independent study in a language that a student chooses.

“I think there are better classes that we can require to have a more rounded education – like civics or scientific literacy,” she said. “Being proficient in French, German or Spanish will help you gain better insight into the rules of the English language, but it isn’t necessary in order to be prepared for a career in liberal arts.”

“Learning a language is like networking, the extent to which you use it in your career should be up to the discretion of the individual,” Spinola said.



Andrew Cummings | Multimedia Editor
This bulletin board illustrates students participating in language based activities. Tutors like this could become less necessary if less students are taking these courses.

from LANGUAGE—page 1

ing in the U.S.”

“Duquesne has created the Bridges Curriculum,” Krause said. “Guiding students toward learning a foreign language is one of the best ways to encourage them to reach out and build bridges and pathways to the world around them—locally and globally.”

It is through the requirement that professors like Osa-Melero can recruit students into pursuing a Spanish minor. When she teaches Spanish 202, she can build a rapport with students and encourage them to pursue a Spanish minor. While the number fluctuates between languages, she estimated that about 70 students minor in Spanish.

“If the requirement is not there anymore, how am I going to meet the students to convince them to major or minor in Spanish?” she said. “What type of contact am I going to have with them to make them study more foreign languages?”

According to the department’s website, the department offers two Bachelor of Arts majors: a B.A. in Spanish, and a B.A. in Modern Languages. The department also offers minors in French and Spanish, according to the website.

‘A short-term fix that is only going to cause more problems’

Huth argues that the foreign language proficiency requirement “sets a Duquesne University degree apart from other universities.”

“By graduating from Duquesne, we graduate with knowledge of another language and culture, which is important when entering the job market,” she wrote to

University President Ken Gormley Tuesday. “As I’ve started applying for jobs, I’ve found that knowing even part of another language gives me a step up above competitors and is a great talking point for interviews.”

She also believes that the decision to end the requirement “will actually cause more problems in the long run than it will fix in the short term.”

“Modern languages will be phased out causing class sizes to decrease,” she wrote. “This leads to canceling classes, then getting rid of languages, to eventually phasing out the entire modern languages department, which is overall a huge mistake to the university.”

Huth said that while the university might gain students who don’t want to take the requirement, it will also lose prospective students. In her experience, she chose Duquesne because it offered French.

If Duquesne eliminates the foreign language proficiency requirement, the university is directly going against its own emphasis on global awareness and global engagement, Huth said.

By its very definition, Osa-Melero said that learning foreign languages can be difficult: it’s foreign, but that is all the more reason to take those courses.

“You’re studying something that’s going to take you out of your comfort zone,” she said. “That is so important in a human being’s development. You need to get used to being out of your comfort zone.”

Osa-Melero said that there is more to learning a foreign lan-

guage than the language itself.

“We don’t prepare the students only to speak a language, we prepare them to open their minds,” Osa-Melero said. “We show them that there are other cultures, over there, as valid as their culture, that are working and functioning, and then one day, if you take the plane and go somewhere else, you’re going to meet those cultures and you’ll be more prepared to be a global citizen.”

Carmen Martinez, who is an adjunct professor in the foreign languages department, also signed Huth’s petition. Martinez said that learning a foreign language is “one of the best things that you can do for yourself.”

“Learning a foreign language enhances your cognitive abilities, and specific intellectual skills such as critical thinking, writing ability, creative thinking and problem-solving skills,” she said. “Like Duolingo or Babble, sophomore environmental science major Rosie Spinola said it’s “more sensible” to do an independent study in a language that a student chooses.

“I think there are better classes that we can require to have a more rounded education – like civics or scientific literacy,” she said. “Being proficient in French, German or Spanish will help you gain better insight into the rules of the English language, but it isn’t necessary in order to be prepared for a career in liberal arts.”

“Learning a language is like networking, the extent to which you use it in your career should be up to the discretion of the individual,” Spinola said.

NAACP meeting discusses importance of words

EMMA POLEN
layout manager

Words are a powerful form of advocating for a cause. Words have the ability to show compassion toward a group or individual, but they also have the power to harm others.

On Sept. 29 at 5 p.m., about a dozen members joined the NAACP chapter at Duquesne and held a meeting to discuss "The Power of Words: The Effect of Slurs, Stereotypes, and Insults."

Ilani Moye, the president of the Duquesne NAACP chapter and a senior entrepreneurship student, prefaced the meeting's open discussion when she said, "This is a safe environment for all of us to share those viewpoints. So I want everyone to be respectful of everyone's viewpoints."

After introducing themselves, the executive board for Duquesne's NAACP defined slurs, stereotypes, and insults. When asked who had encountered one of these harmful words, almost everyone in the room raised their hand.

Justine Martin is a senior International Relations and Political Science dual major and also the event planner for the NAACP Duquesne chapter. She shared her experience that minorities have a harder time making a good first impression because of stereotyping.

"I think the sad part about minorities and people of color having to put [on] our best impression for others, in some way it diminishes the gifts and talents that we know we already have for the sake of making other people aware of our gifts and talents or



ANDREW CUMMINGS | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Ilani Moye, an entrepreneurship senior and president of Duquesne's NAACP chapter, welcomes everyone to the meeting in Rockwell Hall last week.

just on a base level, just making people feel comfortable around us," Martin said.

Martin also said that there are very few other African Americans in her International Relations major. This means that while she feels an obligation to make other people comfortable around her, the feeling is not always returned.

"Sometimes I am the only person of color in my classes," she said. "So it can be a little jarring."

Myles Wilson, a junior Integrated Marketing Communications major and public relations chair for the organization, echoed Martin's words and

shared that he attended a high school that was a PWI (predominately white institution).

"I have been in PWI's for a long time," Myles said.

With this lack of racial minority representation, it can often be hard not to feel extra attention in the classroom.

Antonia Allen, Duquesne NAACP's secretary and junior political science major, shared her opinion of the current situation of PWI's: "It doesn't feel like there's much staff and teachers and professors that are on our side. When racial issues happen on our campus, nothing's really done."

In response to Allen's state-

ment, Wilson suggested an action for overcoming ignorance.

"You have to be willing to empathize with somebody else or hear what somebody else has to say," Wilson said.

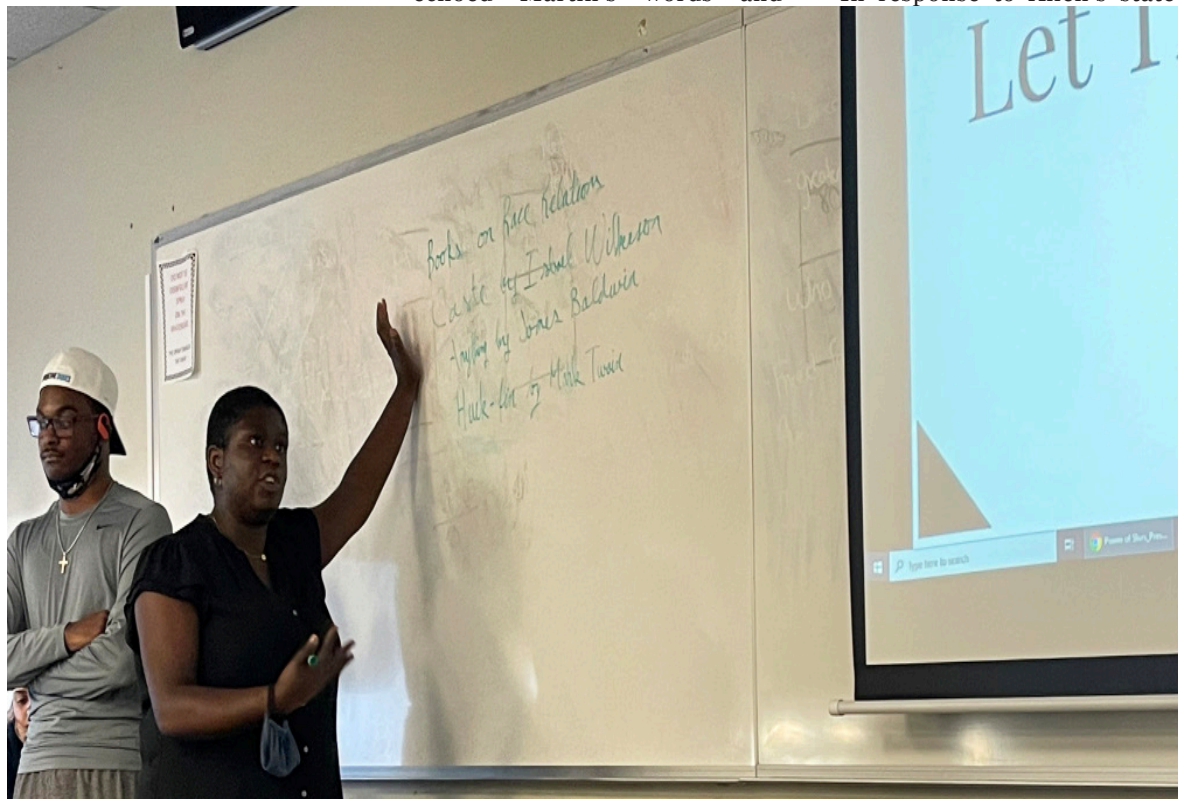
There are a variety of ways to connect with others to understand their experiences, he continued.

The executive board suggested a few books on race relations. They included Ibren Kendi's "How to be an Antiracist" and "What Doesn't Kill You Makes You Blacker" by Damon Young, a local memoir writer. Martin also spoke highly of Isabella Wilkerson's "Caste."

"[The novel] illustrates how the American experience is built on the caste system similar to India. But it's not based on the credence of religion, it's based on the credence of race," Martin said.

NAACP officers wants students at Duquesne to know everybody comes from different backgrounds and educations, but being part of the conversation is important. When advocating as an ally, Martins reminded the audience to "do it from a place of empathy."

The next meeting for the NAACP is expected to be held the week of Oct. 17, with the date to be announced on Instagram @NAACPDUQ. The organization will be partnering with Duquesne's Black Student Union for Black Cultural Awareness Week.



ANDREW CUMMINGS | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Justine Martin, the Duquesne NAACP chapter's event planner, and an International Relations and Political Science double major, shares a list of her favorite books on race relations.

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Pirates take next step in arduous rebuild

For the third consecutive season, Pittsburgh posted a losing record and came nowhere close to earning a postseason berth. However, the franchise prioritized replenishing the minor league system and the active roster with young talent as they seek to build an organizational identity.

LUKE HENNE
sports editor

For the Pittsburgh Pirates, the 2021 season wasn't ideal by any stretch of the imagination. There's validity in the pessimism expressed among some fans, as the team lost upwards of 100 games for the first time since 2010.

Third-year outfielder Bryan Reynolds, who batted just .189 in the 2020 season, bounced back with a .302 batting average (seventh best in the National League). He also hit 24 home runs and recorded 90 runs batted in. His performance at the season's halfway point earned him a spot as the NL's starting center fielder at the MLB All-Star Game in Denver.



LUKE HENNE | SPORTS EDITOR

PNC Park sits relatively empty during Pittsburgh's 9-2 win over the Cincinnati Reds on Friday.

However, there is light at the end of the tunnel. How far away that light might be is not yet clear.

On Sunday, the Pirates' season ended with a 6-3 loss against the Cincinnati Reds at PNC Park. Pittsburgh finished the campaign 61-101, earning its third consecutive last-place finish in the National League Central division.

This was not a surprise. Coming off an abbreviated 2020 season in which the Pirates went 19-41 and secured the worst record in all of Major League Baseball, there were little to no expectations for this year's team.

Pittsburgh raised some eyebrows in the season's first month, entering an April 28 contest against the Kansas City Royals with a 12-11 record. A loss against Kansas City in that game was the first in a five-game losing streak, and the Pirates never recovered from that point on.

The team endured losing streaks of five-plus games on eight separate occasions, including a 10-game losing streak which spanned from June 6 to June 16. It's hard to resemble anything close to competitive when losing so frequently.

As mentioned, there were little to no expectations for the Pirates coming into this season. Nonetheless, there were a few bright spots for the team.

Relief pitcher David Bednar, who was pitching for his hometown team for the first time since being acquired from the San Diego Padres, excelled. The native of nearby Mars, Pa., posted a 2.23 earned run average and 77 strikeouts in just 60.2 innings of work.

Veteran catcher Jacob Stallings, despite missing time with a concussion, recorded walk-offs on four occasions. The most notable of these came on July 17, when Stallings hit a walk-off grand slam to lead the Pirates to a 9-7, come-from-behind victory over the New York Mets.

While they weren't expected to improve at the MLB level, Pittsburgh's pool of minor league players was expected to be restocked and revamped. General manager Ben Cherington was very effective in making sure that expectation became a reality.

At the midway point of the 2020 season, MLB.com ranked the Pirates' farm system 16th (out of 30 MLB teams). On Aug. 25 (about a year since the prior ranking), Pittsburgh had climbed all the way to fourth in MLB.com's rankings.

This can be attributed to a few factors: prospects selected during the 2021 MLB Draft, the progression of prospects already in the system and players acquired via trade.

With the first overall selection in the draft, the Pirates selected Henry Davis. Davis, a

catcher from the University of Louisville, helped fill a position that the Pirates are thin at throughout the entire organization.

In a limited sample size with the Greensboro Grasshoppers (Pittsburgh's High-A affiliate), Davis, Pittsburgh's top prospect (according to MLB.com), posted an impressive .308 batting average with three home runs across just 26 at-bats.

Other notable players who were drafted in July and have already ascended to the top of Pittsburgh's prospect pool include pitchers Anthony Solometo and Bubba Chandler and outfielder Lonnie White.

With a record of 61-101, the Pirates earned the fourth selection in the 2022 MLB Draft. This will mark the third consecutive draft in which Pittsburgh has a top-10 draft positioning, affording them another opportunity to continue building the farm system.

Thanks in large part to the continued emergence of highly-touted prospects like infielder Nick Gonzales (.302 batting average and 18 home runs) and pitcher Quinn Priester (3.04 earned run average and 98 strikeouts), the Grasshoppers made it all the way to the High-A East League Championship Series, where they were defeated by the Bowling Green Hot Rods.

The Bradenton Marauders (Pittsburgh's Low-A affiliate) swept the Tampa Tarpons en route to capturing the Low-A Southeast League title.

Cherington was also extremely active on the trade market, making a handful of deals in the days leading up to the league's trade deadline.

Starting pitcher Tyler Anderson was dealt to the Seattle Mariners. Relievers Austin Davis and Clay Holmes were shipped to the Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees, respectively. Closer Richard Rodriguez was moved to the Atlanta Braves. All-star sec-

ond baseman Adam Frazier was sent to the San Diego Padres.

All of these moves happened in the span of just five days, and Cherington brought back a handful of individuals who were ready to immediately contribute at the big-league level.

Second baseman Michael Chavis, a former first-round draft choice who Pittsburgh received in exchange for Davis, batted .357 with four extra-base hits in 42 at-bats with Pittsburgh.

Utility infielder Hoy Park, who was acquired from the Yankees, drove in 14 runs in 127 at-bats with the Pirates.

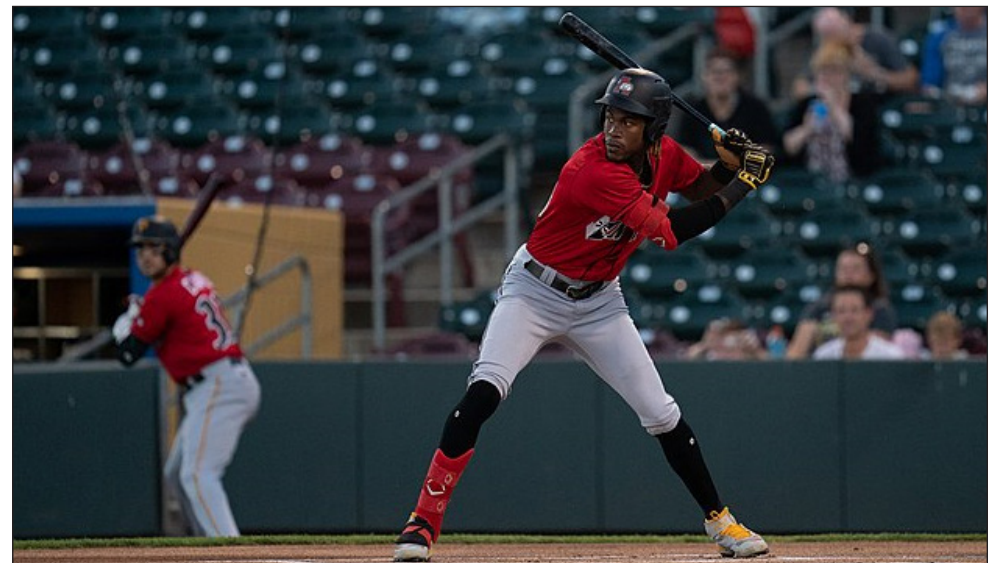
Starting pitcher Bryse Wilson, the key piece of the deal for Rodriguez, allowed three runs or fewer in five of his eight starts with Pittsburgh.

In the final week of the season, two of Pittsburgh's well-known prospects were finally given the opportunity to make their big-league debuts.

Starting pitcher Roansy Contreras (sixth-ranked prospect) struck out four batters and didn't allow a run in three innings of work against the Chicago Cubs on Sept. 29. Infielder Oneil Cruz (third-ranked prospect) played in the final two games of the season. He drove in three runs in nine at-bats, hitting his first-career home run in the ninth inning of Sunday's contest.

In all likelihood, there is still at least two or three years before the Pirates will be expected to compete for a playoff berth. That's how far they've still got to go in their rebuilding process.

Despite this inevitable reality, the 2021 Pirates took many steps forward in pursuit of the franchise's ultimate goal: building a relevant and postseason-caliber team that Pittsburgh will begin to care about and support on a regular basis.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

After spending almost the entire season in the minor leagues, infielder Oneil Cruz was promoted to Pittsburgh's roster on Saturday. He hit his first career big-league home run the following day.

DU football dominates Merrimack, earns first NEC win

SPENCER THOMAS
staff writer

It wasn't until the fifth week of the 2021 season, but Duquesne finally opened FCS play, and did so with a 37-14 road victory over Merrimack on Saturday afternoon.

The win was the Dukes' third in a row and kicks off a Northeast Conference journey that they hope will end with them capturing their first conference title since 2018.

Head Coach Jerry Schmitt was impressed

played great."

Duquesne struggled out of the gate. The Dukes' offense sputtered on their first two possessions, with both drives ending after three plays. They trailed, 7-0, at the end of the first quarter.

When the second quarter opened, Duquesne got their mojo back.

Wide receiver Cyrus Holder caught a touchdown pass — his first of the season — from quarterback Darius Perrantes on the first play of the quarter.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS VIA MERRIMACK ATHLETICS

Leandro DeBrito and Jon Muehlbauer combine to tackle Merrimack's Anthony Norcia during Duquesne's 37-14 victory on Saturday. DeBrito secured his second interception of the season in the NEC victory.

with the win.

"I'm almost speechless on how proud I am of them because it was a true team win," Schmitt said. "There were a lot of guys that had to step up. Guys just stepped up and

Shortly after, defensive back Jeremiah Josephs picked off Warriors quarterback Westin Elliott and returned the ball to the Merrimack 5-yard line. On the next play, running back Billy Lucas found his way into

the end zone, giving the Dukes a 14-7 lead.

Merrimack's next possession was just as brief, as Leandro DeBrito snagged his second interception of the season.

On the Warriors' following possession, Josephs recorded his second interception of the quarter and ran it back 62 yards. This gave Duquesne prime position to kick a field goal and extend its lead to 17-7.

A series of short passes by Elliott resulted in a Merrimack touchdown. Duquesne went into the locker room with a 17-14 advantage.

From that point on, it was all Dukes.

The defense continued to dominate in the third quarter, forcing several punts and causing a Merrimack turnover on downs inside the Duquesne 15-yard line.

An injury-depleted secondary stepped up against a pass-heavy Merrimack offense that threw the ball 49 times throughout the course of the game.

On Merrimack's opening drive of the fourth quarter, linebacker Jahan Worth grabbed the Dukes' fourth interception of the day. This marked the first time a Duquesne defense had secured four interceptions in a game since Nov. 4, 2006.

On the offensive side, Perrantes also remained hot in the second half. He threw his second and third touchdowns of the afternoon to Wykeen Gill and Garrett Owens, respectively.

With just over five minutes remaining in the game, Owens caught his second touchdown of the day from Perrantes, all but securing the victory for Duquesne.

"They played a lot of Cover One, a lot of Man defense," Owens said. "Just taking advantage of those man matchups was definitely part of the game plan, and that's what we did."

When all was said and done, Perrantes

threw for a career-high four touchdowns, becoming the first Duquesne quarterback since 2017 to accomplish such a feat.

Since becoming the Dukes' starter following Joe Mischler's injury midway through the opening-week loss at TCU, Perrantes has guided Duquesne to three consecutive victories.

Owens showed himself as a true dual threat out of the backfield, running the ball for 51 yards. He also led the team in receiving with 82 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

"We've been waiting to utilize his receiving skills, just hadn't had a lot of opportunities," Schmitt said. "He's caught a few balls, but we had the opportunity today to get the ball down the field to him. He made great plays."

With Owens being heavily utilized in the passing game, fellow running back Billy Lucas got the bulk of the carries, running 20 times for 88 yards and a touchdown.

"It was a great week of preparation. We all came together during the week and did all the things we needed to do to prepare well," Owens said. "Everybody on all three sides of the ball all came out and played a hell of a game. We played for each other, fought for each other."

The all-around effort by the Dukes was appreciated by their head coach.

"I'm extremely proud of our football team and the way they did it across the board, the entire team," Schmitt said.

Duquesne will try to carry its momentum into a home NEC clash with Bryant this Saturday afternoon at Rooney Field.

In last spring's abbreviated campaign, the Dukes snapped their three-game losing streak against the Bulldogs with a 20-10 victory on Mar. 28 at Beirne Stadium in Smithfield, R.I.

DU women's soccer bests Richmond, ties Davidson

GRACE HEIDINGER
staff writer

The Duquesne women's soccer team went 1-0-1 in Atlantic 10 Conference play over the past week, defeating Richmond by a 3-1 score on Thursday evening before playing to a scoreless draw with Davidson on Sunday afternoon.

With the win and tie, the Dukes improved their overall record to 4-5-2.

In Thursday's home contest with Richmond, the Dukes' offense controlled the field in the first half, scoring three goals on eight shots against the Spiders.

After receiving a deflected pass from Ashley Rodriguez, Jaimi Araujo found Cami Taylor in front of the net, and Taylor capitalized on the chance, giving the Dukes a 1-0 lead in the game's 12th minute. The goal was Taylor's first of the season and first as a Duke.

Later in the first half, the Dukes put a stranglehold on the game, as Hannah Nguyen and Karley Steinher each scored goals to extend Duquesne's lead to 3-0.

In the 35th minute, Steinher cleared the ball to Nguyen, who scored on a breakaway. Less than three minutes later, a corner kick from Nguyen found Steinher in front of the

net, where she headed the ball past Richmond goalkeeper Claire Hinkle.

"Hannah and I both assisting on each other's goals was a pretty cool accomplishment for the both of us," Steinher told *The Duke*.

The Dukes' defense kept the Spiders off the scoreboard until the 80th minute of the contest. Emma Coleman snuck the ball past Duquesne defenders and goalkeeper Megan Virgin to bring the Spiders within two goals.

The Spiders continued to test the Dukes for the remainder of the match. However, Virgin stood strong in net, helping Duquesne earn its second A-10 victory of the season.

"Thursday's win was big for us. Our team works so hard," Steinher said. "We have been through so much, but I think that has brought us all closer on and off the field. We all play for each other."

Duquesne — still in search of its first road win of the campaign — earned a tie in its road clash with Davidson on Sunday afternoon.

Virgin made four saves in the tie, earning her first shutout of the season. She was later honored as the A-10 Defensive Player of the Week.

"The team did a great job making play predictable in front of me and giving me the op-

portunity to make saves I needed to make to keep us in the game," Virgin said.

Throughout the first half, Duquesne outshot Davidson five to one, with five different Dukes contributing to those attempts. The Dukes had possession of the ball for a majority of the first half, but the score remained 0-0 heading into halftime.

In the 49th minute, a corner kick by Nguyen sparked a scoring attempt for the Dukes. However, Sarah Wilkinson's shot hit the post, and Davidson goalkeeper Emily Smith prevented a subsequent shot by Lexy Kendro from going in.

Once Davidson got possession of the ball around the 50th minute, they had two prime shots to break the tie before time expired in regulation. Virgin made two crucial saves to keep the competition going.

A scoreless first overtime called for a second overtime. In the final minute of the second overtime, the Dukes kept the game scoreless after clearing a Davidson free kick.

Virgin and her teammates remain optimistic following the pair of A-10 games.

"They were both great team efforts," Virgin said. "They put us in a great position heading into the second portion of conference play."

Duquesne has a week off before heading to Fairfax, Va., to face George Mason in another

Sunday afternoon affair.

Since George Mason joined the A-10 prior to the 2013 season, the Dukes have won five of their six meetings with the Patriots, with the most-recent victory coming on Oct. 6, 2019.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Karley Steinher scored a goal and added an assist in the Dukes' 3-1 win over Richmond on Thursday.

Genesisius gets 'psycho' with fun, interactive show

CAPRI SCARCELLI

a&e editor

It's campy, it's 'psycho' and it's certainly a party at Duquesne University's Genesis Theater! Hopping on the surfboard Thursday, Oct. 7, the Red Masquers' debut their first main stage production since the pandemic: the slapstick, in-your-face *Psycho Beach Party*.

Written and directed by Charles Busch in 1988 and made into a movie adaptation in 2000, the play pokes fun at 60s teen beach movies, rom-coms and psychothrillers all in one catastrophic wave of chaos that has you drowning in laughter.

Taking a stroll through the storyline, 16-year-old Chicklet wants more than anything to fit in with the surfer crew. As romances are budding around her, she grows quite jealous of her flirtatious friends — after all, it's hard to be taken seriously when you're known as the goody-two-shoes of Malibu Beach.

However, things are getting fishy, and not just in the ocean. The surfer boys, Kanaka, Starcat, Provoloney and Yo-Yo have noticed suspicious behavior from Chicklet, as if she's flipped a switch. Her most loyal best friend, Bettina, even feels as though she is slipping away from her true, sweetly innocent self.

I felt as though this show was layered and layered with dramatic irony for almost no reason, which made it all the more hilarious. Each scene seemed to spiral into an even deeper level of mayhem, with the ending kind of leaving you in a sort of accepted delusion.

You don't know which way to



CAPRI SCARCELLI | A&E EDITOR

Diving right into a full weekend of shows, the *Psycho Beach Party* cast and crew prepares for opening night.

because the lines are somewhat shocking in a "did you hear that?" kind of way.

Along with this, the blocking was painfully awkward in the best of ways, making you feel like you're a fly on the wall where you shouldn't be, giving a sort of transparency to it that adds to the cartoon-y feel of the show.

And get this — as an audience member, you become directly involved in the craziness! In somewhat *Teen Beach Movie* or *Rocky Horror Picture Show* fashion, you get to dance around and become a part of the show, too. I had my fun going on stage and didn't know what to expect, but as a gentle nudge: make sure to look out for the luau!

show, and there are moments where audience members can come down to the stage and participate too. We hope that people find that exciting to be immersed into the theme of the show along with us."

Susie Betten, a sophomore English Education major, plays the leading 'Chicklet' in the comedy. Working up to the silliness of the show, Betten tried to emulate the "psycho" energy of it each and every rehearsal, leading up to their opening night.

"It has been awesome, I can tell you that! This is the first lead role I've had ever in my 10 years of theater. I love the show: it's so weird, it's so goofy, I love all of the people I'm working with, and it's just been so fun. It's exactly what I've always wanted in a show," Betten said.

Betten, aside from leading the show into chaos, had her first experiences with costuming a show. Getting inspiration from Southside thrift stores, vintage shops and costume sales, she was able to find outfits that fit the time period of the show, as well as the characters who wore them.

"Every time I've done theater, no matter what character I play or what show I'm in, I put on that costume and I think 'this is it.' And it was even more exciting than opening night to me," Betten said.

Freshman nursing major Sadie Raynor, who plays Bettina, said that her character is "so funny and ditz, but also a genius."

"When I walk in the dressing room and we have our music playing, it helps so much to get into 'Bettina Mode'" Raynor said. "It snaps me into character, and I can just let loose and yell and laugh on stage."

"What's funny about this show is that it has this front of being a PG-rated kind of show, but it's actually quite scandalous and it catches you off guard," Betten said. "But trust me, this is the funniest show I've acted in ever."

Stage manager Heather Due, a senior Theater Arts and Theology major, said that the technical aspects

of the show are dependent on comedic timing — which means cues often come down to the exact second.

"This show is a whole lot of everything. It's very adult-natured, but also teenage-like in script-writing, like a 12-year-old boy would have a field day with writing it," Due said. "There are dance numbers, a disco ball, a character with multiple personalities and they're all teenagers on the beach — there's no big lesson from this show, but we hope you leave knowing you had a good time."

Senior Theater Arts and English major Travis Berkfelt, President of the Red Masquers, reflected on his time with the theater troupe, saying that this will probably be his last main stage show, and he's "gotta make this one count."

"Yo-Yo is a very cool, down-to-earth character. I usually find myself gravitating toward more wacky characters, so it's somewhat easier for me getting into that chaotic mode for the show," Berkfelt said. "There's interjections, props and 'movie-theater-vibes,' so make sure to look out for that if you want to be a part of the fun."

Similarly, senior vocal performance major Michael Kirk describes his character as "fun, crazy, weird, stupid and the 'older brother' of the group."

"Kanaka is very willing to fulfill a blind leadership position amongst the guys because he provides a certain key level of 'dumb' for this type of show," Kirk said. "Whether or not they're ready, the audience will participate, and they will laugh like crazy."

Audiences should expect to be shocked, yet thoroughly entertained with the insane, ever-growing accelerando that is *Psycho Beach Party*. The show will be running Thursdays to Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m., with a midnight showing on Saturday, Oct. 9. Tickets are free for Duquesne students, \$10 for visiting students and \$20 for adults.

"I hope a lot of people come out: this is an experience that people will regret not going to," Jeffrey said.



CAPRI SCARCELLI | A&E EDITOR

Taking on many forms, Betten portrays the many personalities of her character, Chicklet.

turn, what is right and wrong, or even who the characters truly are. The dimensions of the characters seem to go from 2-D to 4-D quite quickly, becoming more wackily complex with each character interaction. They are over-the-top, and you certainly won't miss a beat.

The script itself was quick-witted and filled with innuendos — you almost catch yourself laughing before you realize you're laughing. And I felt guilty laughing, too,

This show is set up in "three-quarter fashion," according to adjunct executive director Jill Jeffrey. Thus, with an 11-person cast, managing rehearsal schedules and space on stage was more than doable.

"The read-through definitely made people feel more reassured and excited about it, it made us all think: There's nothing too big you can't try," Jeffrey said. "It's super goofy, the audience is given various props during the

WEEK'S EVENTS

DPC Cookout
Oct. 8 @ 5 p.m.

Go to College Hall Lawn for free hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers and more! Supplies limited.

Food Truck Fridays
Oct. 8 @ 11 a.m.

You know the drill! Take a stroll down A-Walk for free food and fun!

Dukes Football vs. Bryant
Oct. 9 @ 12 p.m.

Come support the Duquesne Dukes on Rooney Field!

Phipps Conservatory Trip
Oct. 9 @ 1:30 p.m.

Go to the Freshman Center of Development (Room 305 in the Union) for \$5 tickets to Oakland's beautiful botanical garden! Tickets limited.

Immunization Jeopardy
Oct. 10 @ 9 p.m.

Go to the NiteSpot to test your knowledge on vaccines — and get free pizza while you're at it!

CAPRI'S KIND WORDS

Focus on Yourself

With so much to do and see around campus and Pittsburgh alike in this upcoming fall season, it's difficult to prioritize your happiness and your workload to find that comfortable balance.

During this busy time of year, it's exciting to jam-pack your schedule to make those meaningful memories, but you do not have to feel obligated to be pulled every which way.

Think for yourself: What do I have time to do? What can I make time to do? In the best-case scenario, what will benefit the most in the long-run?

You do not have to choose between pumpkin patches and essay grades.

It's overwhelming to think, but you can make the time for all that you wish to accomplish, and all you wish to find joy in.

The coolest part is: It's up to you. And nobody can change that but you.

— Capri Scarcelli

Pittsburgh Zoo illuminates exhibits with cultural experience

MIA LAMBRUNI
staff writer

The Asian Lantern Festival is a celebratory experience hosted at the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium Thursdays-Saturdays from 6:30-10:30 p.m. Until Oct. 30, everyone has the chance to head over to Highland Park to see what the zoo has to offer.

On select days, the lanterns start to glow around dusk, and visitors can go on a stroll of the winding pathways. The Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium's website says that their steel and silk sculptures share three themes: the animals at the zoo, the zoo's global species conservation partnerships as well as Asian culture. These

massive sculptures, along with the lanterns and performances, highlight the zoo's cultural diversity and help to foster an intercultural intelligence.

Hailey Russell, a business major, visited last Thursday and said the lantern festival was an interactive experience with a children's karate feature and huge illuminated animals around every corner.

"This local, community-driven experience is really for everyone," Russell said.

DSF Charitable Foundation, a Pittsburgh-based organization, has given educational, health and humanitarian grants, and is presenting this prolonged event for the local community to spread cultural awareness. According to their website, Pittsburgh Zoo



ANDREW CUMMINGS | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR
Pulling inspiration from cultural technique, the Asian Lantern Festival lit a new perspective to the zoo.

Pulling inspiration from cultural technique, the Asian Lantern Festival lit a new perspective to the zoo.

said that this event is to shine light on conservation, community and culture.

In addition to the cultural features, animals are still out and about, including the tiger and Komodo dragon. Although most indoor events are closed, this outdoor exhibit has animals, lanterns, sculptures and performers. Regional and cultural performances rotate nightly, so each experience is immensely unique.

Alethea Calandra, a junior political science major, said she enjoyed the unique variety of ornaments and sculptures, especially the ones that seemed to appear in a different light each time you walked by them.

"My favorite part was this big chameleon that would actu-

ally change colors. They had so many different animals, and it's crazy that all the sculptures were handmade," Calandra said.

The lantern festival began on Aug. 14; since then, they have hosted families, couples and groups of friends throughout the park. Because of the continual crowds, the zoo is illuminated nightly with handcrafted lanterns decorated with wildlife.

Especially for children, this experience is educational, yet captivating. Children under the age of two can get in for free. Any kid above the age of two will cost \$16.95, with adults costing \$19.95.

Not only is this event a walk-thru, it is also a drive-thru.

A walk-thru ticket is valid for the entire night, so *The Duke*

suggests occupying your time with every aspect displayed at the zoo.

This brand-new experience will happen on Oct. 20 and Oct. 27. The hour-long drive will cost about \$60 per vehicle, so we would recommend taking a full car.

Jackson Jewell, a freshman chemical engineering major who went in August, said the festival was much more entertaining than he anticipated.

"I went along with it, but surprisingly it was pretty cool and fun to walk through," Jewell said.

The Asian Lantern Festival ends on Saturday Oct. 30, so *The Duke* suggests everyone makes it a priority to see this beautiful event as soon as possible.



ANDREW CUMMINGS | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Pittsburgh's Asian Lantern Festival offers an artful experience for zoo-goers and lantern lovers alike.

Indie-rock artist Samia takes on the Southside

CLAIRE NEIBURG
staff writer

This past Monday, the trail-blazing alternative and indie-rock singer-songwriter Samia Finnerty (Samia) brought down the house at Club Café on East Carson Street in Pittsburgh's Southside.

Samia gained popularity on Spotify in 2017, following her release of "Welcome to Eden." She is known for her authenticity and ability to connect to her fans, as she captures the essence of growing up, falling in and out of love and facing her fears through music.

Faithful fans of the 24-year-old New York-native performer crowded into Club Café in anticipation of her electric voice and charming, high-energy dance moves. Opening for Samia was Savannah Conley, another growing name in the indie-rock world.

Conley's warm personality and emotional originals compliment-

ed the discography many Samia fans know and love. Her songs displayed a wide range of angst and sadness, and to finish, she showcased a stunning cover of the Arctic Monkey's "Do I Wanna Know?" which left fans feeling wrapped in nostalgia.

Samia took the stage, starting out slow with the opening song of her first debut album *The Baby*. The studio album was released in August 2020 and served as a quarantine favorite for her fans. The first track, "Pool," captures the album's recurring themes of the mourning that comes with growing up and explains Samia's cherished relationship with her family.

Samia has stated in various interviews that many of her songs focus on "things that she's scared of," which is the theme of an emotional single on her album, "Is There Something in the Movies?" During the live performance, Samia took a seat on the drum set and made her audience feel as if she was singing

directly to them, telling her own story of growing up along with the important people that have come in and out of her life.

While many of Samia's hits are slow and somber, she also showcased lighthearted, upbeat songs, giving a memorable performance of her no. 1 Spotify track "Big Wheel," after performing "Fit N Full"—a fan favorite from *The Baby*.

Samia has risen to popularity among listeners in the last year, but she paid homage to her earliest days in the indie music scene by giving a beautiful performance of the first song she put on Spotify in 2017, "Welcome to Eden." She also opened up to fans with one of her other earliest singles, "Django," and its heartbreaking message.

A moment from Samia's concert that stole the hearts of the audience members was her performance of "As You Are." This song opens her newest EP *Scout*, which was released earlier this



CLAIRE NEIBURG | STAFF WRITER

Samia sings her heart out at Southside's Club Café to honor her adoring fans.

year. "As You Are" speaks of love and acceptance, and during the performance, Samia invited Conley back on stage to sing with her to complete the heartwarming number.

For her final songs, Samia surprised the audience with an electrifying cover of Heart's "Barracuda," and after fans cheered for "one last song," she graced the stage with "21"—another early single that made

her fans, both old and new, feel at home at the edge of her stage.

For many members of the audience, Samia's concert was the first live-music event they had been to since the pandemic started in March 2020. The feeling of live music running through my veins again was unreal, and even more so when it was from the ethereal performer that contributed so much to the indie music world during that dark time.

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.”

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

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

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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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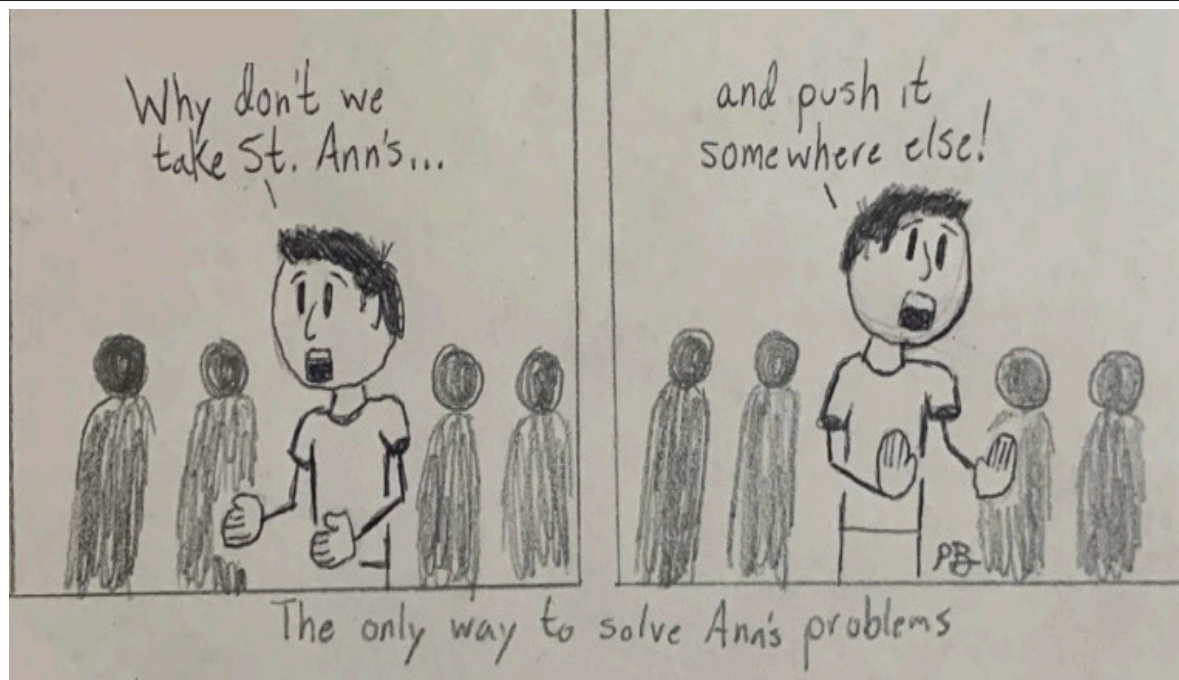
Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced and include the writer's name, school/department and phone number for verification. Letters should be no longer than 300 words and should be delivered to *The Duke* office at 113 College Hall or e-mailed to theduquduke@gmail.com by 5 p.m. Tuesday. The 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

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PETER BOETTGER | STAFF COMIC ARTIST

‘They’ deserves a voice too

As a journalist, I always ask the same old questions when interviewing a source for a story: What is your name? Can you spell that? Where are you from? It's become a sort of habit. Always ask the basics before getting into the thick of an interview.

For all the difficult questions that follow the “what's your name,” you'd think we'd be able to tack on quite a simple one: What are your preferred pronouns?

On Zoom calls, you've probably seen fellow students and faculty with a display name followed by their preferred pronouns in parentheses. Or you've visited someone's Instagram profile with the new addition of displaying pronouns in their bio.

Gender neutral pronouns have recently come to the forefront of the world's attention, garnering support for asking before assuming someone's identity. No matter what a person may seem like they go by, we should always ask — just in case.

According to a study done by Pew Research in 2018, approximately one in five Americans know someone who uses gender neutral pronouns.

For some Americans, old and young, Democrat or Republican, asking about pronouns may be new or unfamiliar, or gender neutral may feel grammatically incorrect.

However, for many in transgender or gender non-conforming communities, being able to represent their identity through the use of their preferred pronouns is a way to be respected for who they are and reduce experiences of being misgendered.

It's especially important in the world of journalism. As

journalists, we're in a position to give a voice to the common everyday American, and that's been our mission since the early days of our democracy.

Pronouns have become a point of friction among copy editors and reporters. Guidelines have long told reporters to use pronouns in conjunction with a person's preferred gender identity or one that is “consistent with the way individuals live publicly,” the 2016 AP Stylebook said.

Although slightly relaxed, the AP Stylebook continues to put restrictions on its usage.

“They/them/their is acceptable in limited cases as a sin-



ZOE STRATOS
opinions editor

gular and/or gender-neutral pronoun when alternative wording is overly awkward or clumsy. However, rewording usually is possible and always is preferable.”

I disagree with the journalistic so-called Bible that I've been following for almost eight years now.

“Rewording” can work only so many times. We use someone's pronouns in an article

many more times than their last name.

Before nonbinary pronouns became regularly used, we often used ‘they’ pronouns for a single person, though typically when the word or phrase it substitutes for doesn't refer to a specific individual. Sometimes we say “tell them you'll call them back,” even if we know their gender.

So why isn't it standard that we use singular they in journalism? And why do institutions, universities, publishers and media outlets like the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* — a publication I personally work for — still encourage all this gendering? The *Post-Gazette* still uses courtesy titles in articles, for example, “According to Mr. Biden...”

Upon asking about how to attribute those who don't identify as a ‘Mr.’ or ‘Ms.’ — they didn't really have an answer.

It's about time to drop the courtesy titles, and instead have the courtesy to ask a person what they want.

Journalism shapes the perception of the public. In choosing to not use preferred pronouns or choosing not to ask, you craft public perception in a way that discriminates against people who are not cisgender.

When an article runs and doesn't use the subjects preferred pronouns, a journalist is only adding to the discrimination they've faced all of their life.

How can we as journalists write about injustice and reform while wronging someone who put their trust in us?

There really is no reason strong enough not to ask.

We, as journalists, are bound to truth, so listening to their truth is our job.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Port Authority offers easy access to Pittsburgh

Getting around Pittsburgh seems easy enough from our quaint little spot on the Bluff, right? Then how come public transportation hasn't really caught on, especially for students looking to explore beyond campus grounds?

Pittsburgh public transportation, Port Authority, offers affordable transportation to your desired destination through bus, subway (the ‘T’) and incline. With fares as low as \$2.75, or \$2.50 with a ConnectCard, the city of Pittsburgh allows for easy-access to each side of the three rivers. Not to mention, the ‘T’ is free between city lines from just beyond Duquesne's campus all the way to the North Shore.

Traveling between Downtown and Oakland, for example, the Port Authority bus 71D runs from 5 a.m. to about 1:30 a.m. As for the T, getting around Downtown can mean 5 a.m. to around midnight for game days, concerts and more.

With this in mind, most of our favorite go-to-spots are a straight shot, with easy-to-remember stops. Taking any 71 or 61 will go all the way up and down Forbes Ave., starting Downtown and taking you through Oakland, Squirrel Hill, Shadyside, East Liberty and as far as Highland Park. This leaves plenty of opportunity for new places to eat, new parks to walk through and new sights to see.

Apps such as Moov It, Transit or even Apple/Google maps offer riders the opportunity to keep track of arrival time, stops, transit lines and walking distance to the spot you're looking to go to, right at your convenience. All you have to do is hop on, pay and pull the cord to request a stop.

Some may worry about the timeliness of public transportation, though Port Authority buses are timely 71% of the time, as the ‘T’ is reported timely 80% of the time, according to Port Authority weekday average as of August. Meaning, on average, Port Authority takes at most 15 minutes to wait for.

According to Pew Research Center, 59% of public transit riders are between the ages of 25-54, while students make up a mere 7%. This makes sense, considering that the majority of Uber users fall between the ages of 16-34.

But why spend the extra money on an Uber or a Lyft when the option of flat-rate transit is right there at the ready? No tax, no fee, no tip?

Aside from these various benefits, you are contributing to eco-friendly travel — decreasing the amount of carbon in the air by joining others in a more all-purpose transportation. Think: if there's one larger vehicle as opposed to many smaller vehicles on the road, there is less toxins being produced and clearer air to breath at your next destination. So, it's convenient for you, and convenient for the Earth, too.

With the easy accessibility of public transit, you'll see how the option of getting around is always there. Next time you're out and about, consider taking the bus.

Britney Spears' conservatorship should not end (just yet)

RIO SCARCELLI
staff columnist

The fight with the court is never over for Britney Spears as her most recent hearing on Sept. 29 ruled that accountant John Zabel would be in charge of Britney's person, finances and estate in lieu of her father Jamie Spears' suspension.

Members of the Free Britney movement and Britney herself are ecstatic about the removal of her father from the 13-year-long conservatorship.

"#FreeBritney movement ... I have no words ... because of you guys and your constant resilience in freeing me from my conservatorship ... my life is now in that direction !!!!! I cried last night for two hours cause my fans are the best, and I know it," Spears said on social media this week.

The celebration was short-lived in preparation for the upcoming hearing on Dec. 31. Within the terms of the court hearing, Jamie Spears' position was only a temporary suspension as opposed to a termination with Zabel vicariously managing Britney through the conservatorship.

In spite of Jamie's suspension, many fans have formed protests and rallies saying that the conservatorship should be fully ended sooner rather than later and that Zabel's presence within Britney's estate and finances is only procrastinating her liberation.

While it is true that justice should be served, that has been placed in the public eye with *The New York Times'* second installment detailing Britney's conservatorship:

"Controlling Britney Spears."

This new documentary relied on investigative journalism with a vast majority of interviewees breaking their Non-Disclosure Agreements administered to them by Jamie Spears and his legal team. But many of those who could provide insight into the unscrupulous business-management that Jamie and others created were too scared to receive backlash from an egregious legal power.

Regardless, of the people who were still shown in the film, a standout source provided explosive allegations that would be enough to corroborate the violations of Britney as a conservatee.

Alex Vlasov, a former employee of Black Box security, went into full detail regarding his position within the business, Britney's life and as a mole. He worked closely alongside Edan Yemini, the founder of Black Box, and Jamie himself to regulate the communications aspect of Britney's conservatorship.

When Vlasov began to allege that Yemini and Jamie went through continual efforts to screen mirror her phone, set up recordings within the confines of her bedroom and monitor all of her texts/phone calls without her knowledge or consent, news hit the fan.

To current plaintiff-attorney Matthew Rosengart, this information was enough for him to create a case saying that Jamie had clearly infringed upon the terms of his conservatorship and the interests of Britney as the con-

servatee. In what Britney had called a "demoralizing display," the allegations sparked enough emotion to give her the reprieve she had been asking for: Jamie's suspension.

With all of this in mind, the information presented by Vlasov is merely a heated-allegation that sparked the fire for the Sept. 29 case. In the goal of temporarily suspending Jamie's role in the conservatorship, Rosengart had succeeded.

But by entirely terminating the conservatorship Jamie Spears can exit the situation free of any charges.

In being temporarily suspended in his role within the person, estate and finances of Britney, Jamie is still required to answer to the court with any legal documentation of any medium pertaining to the past 13 years. In a situation where existing, private tapes of Britney within her own home may potentially be lying on a hard-drive, the time to be incriminated comes closer.

The year 2021 has given a home to the idea of "holding people accountable." Whether it was an immoral action from yesterday or one spanning 13 years ago, the internet has taken hold of the things that people said and did in their past. This not only brings attention to the actions that people thought of, but also puts them in a position where they should openly apologize for and rectify that behavior in the future.

If this is the logic that people wish to hold themselves in for the contemporary age of media, the same should be



COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS

For over a decade, pop icon Britney Spears has been battling behind the scenes with her father about a conservatorship. While most of her struggles have been private, she was recently brought back into the spotlight as fans fought for her freedom.

said for Jamie Spears and his violation of privacy and unempathetic behavior put toward his own daughter.

Fans who feel that the conservatorship should have been put to an entire close last week have a passionate right to believe that. Regardless, there are many more steps that can be taken to not only "Free Britney," but also to atone for the treatment given to her by the person who dealt it.

Letting Jamie Spears leave the conservatorship with no existing amount of remorse would only be a win for him.

The money would be in his pocket and the damage would have already been dealt. In his vehement denial of any harm to the former-pop star through many social media statements, that should be enough to say that an eye-opener is necessary for Jamie and members of his team.

If prolonging the conservatorship is a way to properly serve justice to those who deserve it, then the preparation has to start with the incrimination of Jamie Spears on Dec. 31.

Until that day, nobody can say that Britney has truly been freed.

The Duke takes on Health & Wellness

Every year *The Duke* staff goes above and beyond to create a special issue for the fall edition of the paper.

This year, follow along as the staff talks all things nutrition, physical health and mental wellbeing.

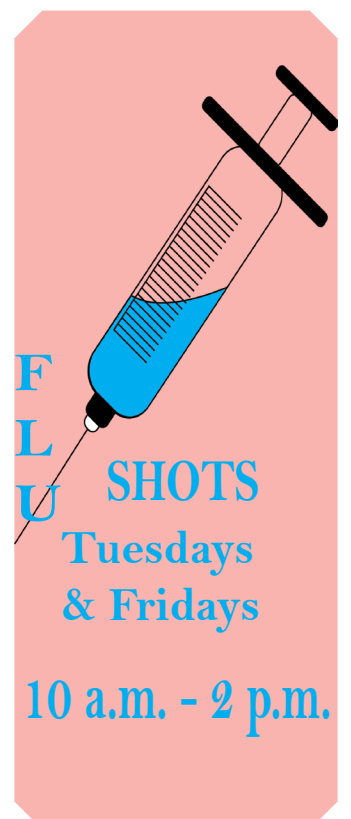
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EMAIL TIPS

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 Editor-in-Chief Colleen Hammond at hammondcc@duq.edu



Spooky Season: Fall festivities in Pittsburgh

DUKE STAFF

October is here — and that means the spooky season is creeping up on Pittsburgh.

Here's a round-up of some of the best places to enjoy fall in the Pittsburgh area.

For fall colors, check out **Schenley Park** right in the heart of Pittsburgh. Schenley Park has 456 acres to sit out with your friends and enjoy what fall in western Pennsylvania has to offer. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry, leaves in Allegheny County are "starting to change." The counties surrounding Allegheny County are also in the "starting to change" phase, according to the state bureau of forestry.

Another great place to take in the scenery is **McConnell's Mill State Park**. Located about 40 minutes north of the city, McConnell's Mill has tons to offer visitors this fall. Hike through miles of hilly terrain or enjoy the last of the sunny days on a large boulder along the riverbed. This park is free to enter, has gorgeous picnic spots and the rural drive there is just another great way to see the fall colors.

Soergel's Orchards in Wexford is everything you could ask for in a fall festival. The orchard offers a pumpkin patch and ap-

ple picking — perfect for those classic fall Instagram pictures. Apple picking at Soergel's is available weekdays from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Pumpkin picking at Soergel's is available weekdays from 3:30-5:30 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

It's the **Monster Pumpkin Festival**, Charlie Brown! Pittsburgh's Monster Pumpkin Festival will take place in the Strip District Oct. 16 and 17. Events include a horse-drawn carriage ride, a pumpkin splash and pumpkin paintings and designs.

You can also get your scare on at **Scare-House**, a Pittsburgh haunted house located at the Pittsburgh Mills in Tarentum. Scare-House is open through weekends in October.

If that wasn't scary enough, take a trip out to a Pittsburgh classic **Kennywood**, just in

time for the Phantom Fall Fest. Throughout the entire month of October, Kennywood will be open for extended afternoon and evening hours to give visitors a chance to experience their new fall festival. This festival features over 30 rides and attractions, "bone-chilling haunts," and after-dark scare zones. Tickets start at \$35 and are available on Kennywood's website.

Pour yourself a glass of fresh local cider. Pittsburgh is home to two booming local cider houses — **Threadbare** on the North Shore and **Arsenal Cider House** in Lawrenceville.



PAIGE DZWONCHYK | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fall-themed events are beginning to pop up all over the Pittsburgh area.

Both feature hard cider (for those of age) and nonalcoholic cider for those looking for a refreshing seasonal drink.

And if you want to stay on campus, the Duquesne Ballroom Association is hosting a **Ballroom Halloween Lesson and Social** event Thursday, Oct. 28 from 7 - 9 p.m. in the Union Ballroom.

Tired of Starbucks' pumpkin spice latte? Check out some of Pittsburgh's locally owned coffee shops to get a fresh taste of the season. **Rock 'n' Joe Coffee** on Penn Avenue is offering a pumpkin pie latte and hot apple cider this spooky season. Their fall

menu also includes a variety of cool weather treats. Be sure to ask for their pumpkin loaf, and if you're looking to feel extra cozy, ask the barista to warm it up for you. Other great coffee shops include the **Allegheny Tea and Coffee Exchange** in the Strip District, home to some of the best flavored coffee in the area; **Gasoline Street Coffee** on Second Ave., offering pumpkin shortbread bars and iced pumpkin spice lattes; **Common-place Coffee** in Squirrel Hill and the North Shore boasts a slew of fall flavors including brown sugar cardamom, maple orange spice, orange spiced mocha and autumn spice.

King of the Bluff: Q+A with Michael Hair

BRENTARO YAMANE

staff writer

Michael Hair is a Pharm.D. student at Duquesne University. Recently, Hair was named Duquesne's Homecoming king. Besides studying for class, Hair keeps himself busy as he is currently an Inpatient Pharmacy Intern at Penn State Health. He has even been a part of Duquesne's Orientation program as a team leader.

This interview has been edited for brevity and clarity.

When it was announced that you won Homecoming King, what was going through your mind?

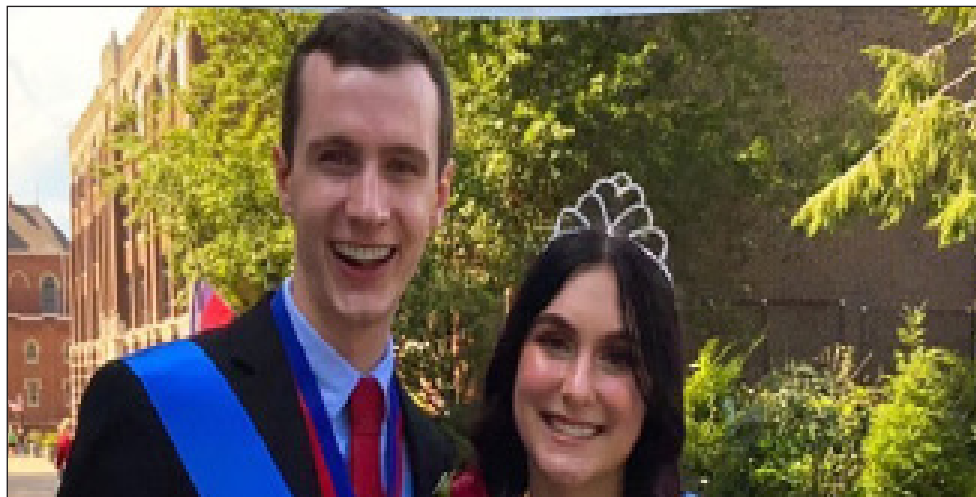
Michael Hair: I was surprised when I heard my name called. It was even an honor to be selected by the faculty to be on this year's homecoming court and being elected as king was beyond my expectations. Duquesne is my favorite place and anyone from back home would be able to tell you how much I love being at school. It was just such a joyful day.

You've been on the Bluff since 2018. Prior to graduating high school, what helped you make decision that Duquesne was home for you?

Hair: I visited Duquesne for the first time in February in my senior year of high school, and it was the only school that gave me that "Wow!" feeling. The campus was right next to Downtown but still it felt like its own separate space. I could tell that every student I talked to loved Duquesne. Just from that first visit, I would have committed Duquesne if I had decided what I wanted to major in by then.

How many people are in your family? And did any of them go to college. If so, where and what did they study?

Hair: I am the youngest of six kids, and all of my siblings are graduated from college. Two are engineers, one is a nurse, one is a history teacher, and one actually graduated from the Duquesne School of Pharmacy



COURTESY OF MICHAEL HAIR

Michael Hair (left) stands next to Madelyn Arndt (right) on Academic Walk after they were both crowned Homecoming King and Queen on Sept. 25.

over 10 years ago.

So, what made you feel that going into the pharmaceutical world was right for you?

Hair: I have had a great interest in the health sciences, but I didn't want to be involved in hands-on medical care. Pharmacy is a great profession in healthcare with many opportunities, many of which do not involve blood and intimate patient care.

You're currently a Pharm.D. student in the School of Pharmacy. As you are in your 4th year of college, what is one of the biggest things that you have learned about pharmacy?

Hair: The biggest thing I have learned about pharmacy is the diverse number of options upon graduating. There are many different practice settings including retail pharmacies, consulting pharmacy, and hospitals. Within clinical settings themselves, there are many different specialties that can be pursued. Within the realm of pharmacy itself, there are many career possibilities.

As of now, tell me a professor that

you have had in college that has enhanced your love and knowledge for pharmacy.

Hair: My cardiology professor Dr. Montepara has probably influenced my love of pharmacy the most. As she is lecturing, her love of pharmacy is evident throughout the class. Her part of the course involves the guidelines for when to order or prescribe heart medications for patients, but her energy and love of the profession makes it feel like so much more than just a lecture. She really shows that it is easy to fall in love with pharmacy, and once we each find our own niche in pharmacy we can feel the same way.

Are there any other clubs, programs, or activities that you are a part of at Duquesne? If so, what are they?

Hair: I am involved in many clubs in the pharmacy school: Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Helping Educate and Rehabilitate Together, the American College of Clinical Pharmacy, and I am a sweetheart for Lambda Kappa Sigma (the pharmacy sorority). Outside of the pharmacy school, I am involved in

the Duquesne University Health Professions Society, the American Cancer Society, and I sing in the Chapel Choir.

Tell me about some of your college friends that you have built relationships with and tell me the impact that they have had on you.

Hair: My friend Lia Ferraccio has had one of the biggest impacts on me throughout college. After simply being acquaintances in a Philosophy class freshman year, we randomly decided to take the same exact classes the following semester. Always having a partner to study with was a great decision, and we have continued to be in most of the same classes since that semester. Without having someone taking the same classes and experiencing the same stress as me, I'm not sure I would have made it this far as easily as I did. Someone else that has helped me survive college is my friend Erin Carbone. We became friends by chance after being cast together in a Red Masquers performance freshman year. Ever since, we have been able to share our love of music and songwriting which brings some relief and a break from always stressing about classes.

What is one of the funniest or crazy stories that you will always remember once you leave Duquesne?

Hair: For several years, there was a Duquesne ice skating night at PPG Place located downtown. After the event ended my sophomore year, there was a school bus that offered to take students back to Duquesne. What we did not realize when we got on the bus, however, was that the bus was not organized by Duquesne. The 40ish students on the bus didn't realize this fact until we ended up on the top of Mount Washington, by which time a student had called the desk at Assumption only to find out that they had no idea about the bus. Eventually, we ended up Downtown again when DUPO pulled us over and we had to walk back to Duquesne from either further away than the ice-skating rink.

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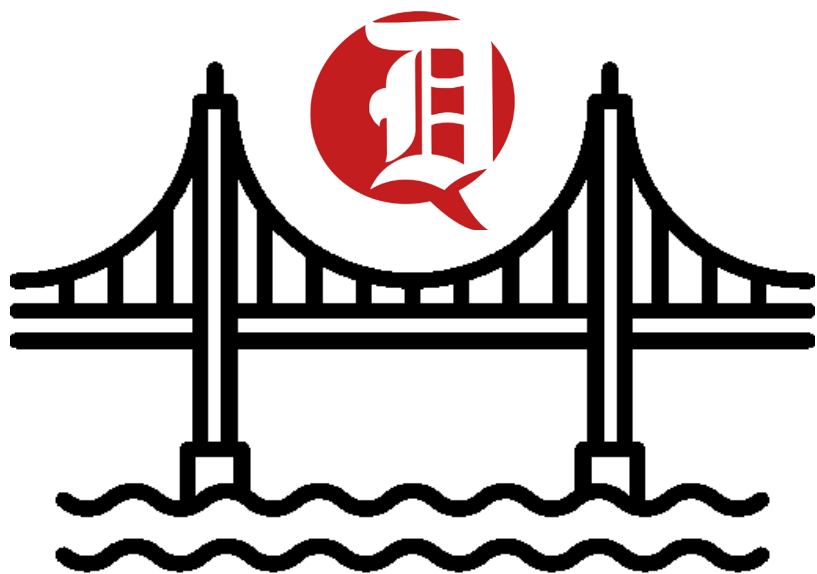
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