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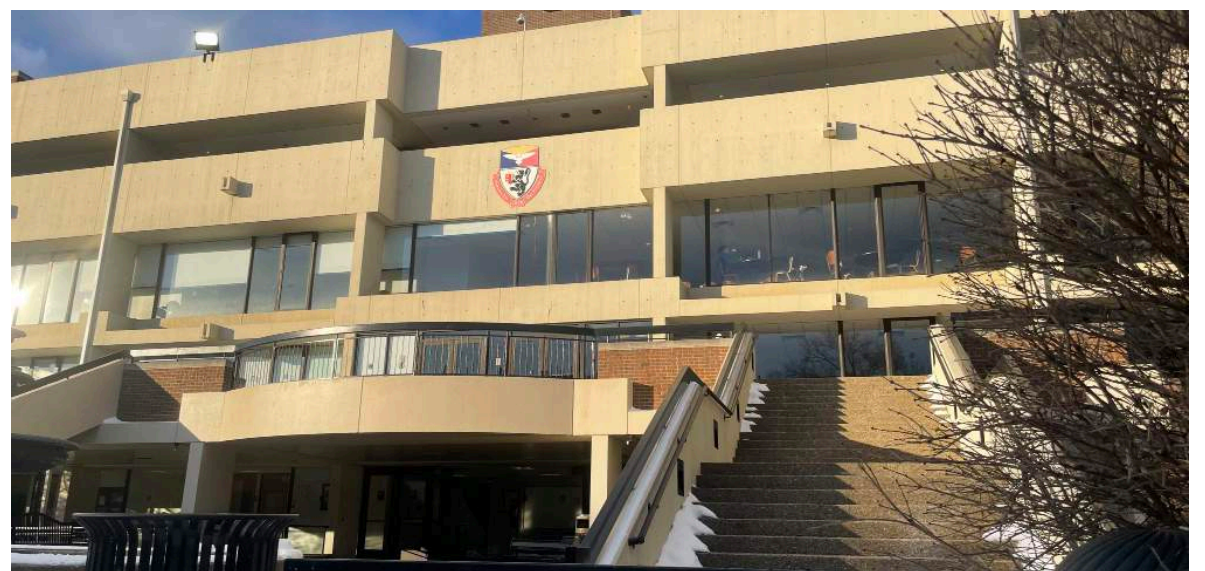


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Commencement Commotion: University responds to student graduation complaints

ZOE STRATOS AND CAPRI
SCARCELLI
staff editors



ZOE STRATOS | OPINIONS EDITOR

As of Sunday the petition had over 1,200 signatures. Class of 2022 Students in the School of Education, School of Natural and Environmental Science and School of Music are hoping to move their commencement from the Union Ballroom to a different location such as the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse to receive their diplomas.

Remembering the Holocaust

COLLEEN HAMMOND
editor-in-chief

Aged black and white photographs faded across the screen as a pair of violins sung a haunting, mournful melody. A shopkeeper. A town doctor. A local hairdresser. A mother of young children. An aging father with a son away abroad. Almost eight decades after one of the darkest chapters of human history, members of the Pittsburgh Jewish and Duquesne communities gathered to honor the often forgotten lives taken in the Holocaust.

In commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day, a memorial holiday designated by the United Nations in 2005, Gumbert Library and the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh hosted a virtual, interfaith event on the evening of Jan. 26.

"Tonight's commemoration is an opportunity to remember those who were killed during the Holocaust," said Sara Baron, Duquesne librarian.

While this secular memorial day attempts to pay respect to the 6 million Jewish people who were murdered, it has become a day to focus on the forgotten voices often lost to the past.

Through the work of the event's panelists like Lauren Apter Bairnsfather, director of the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh, the memory of victims of this grotesque genocide are preserved and passed on to future generations.

In her continuing efforts to educate the public on the enduring effects of the Holocaust, Apter Bairnsfather said programs like this are "shedding light on histories we don't always pay enough attention to."

Apter Bairnsfather kicked off the night with a slew of introductions followed by the dispelling of a core myth about Holocaust Remembrance Day. Since 2005, this day has marked the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in 1945 by

REMEMBRANCE PAGE 2

It's the start of the spring semester for Duquesne students, but the beginning of the end for undergraduate, graduate and doctoral seniors graduating in May.

At the start of the spring semester, the university announced its plans for May 2022 commencement on their website, including a list of dates and times for academic schools' ceremonies — in two different locations.

For the less-populated academic schools — the School of Education, Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Science and the Mary Pappert School of Music, the university has elected to hold the graduations in the Union Ballroom, while other schools will receive their diplomas in the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse.

The announcement to hold the smaller schools in the Union Ballroom is nothing new, as similar schedules were standard in previous years; however, various students took action to change the location, furious with the setting for graduation.

In response to the outcry, university leaders offered changes to the time and location of the commencement after a robust back and forth with students and faculty.

Judith Cooke, a senior secondary education social studies major, received the announcement email

from academic advisor Sandra Bondo on the morning of Jan. 21. Just moments after sweeping through group chats and social media, Cooke said she felt compelled to make a petition "10 minutes after hearing the news," which was soon posted on change.org.

The petition was paired with a letter that was anonymously written by a senior education major, and passed along through the soon-to-be-graduated class as a way to get the attention of administration, according to Cooke. As students' concerns only grew, Cooke made the letter into a petition that was then shared through Facebook, Instagram and more.

"I want to know how a committee of people could compare the newly-renovated Cooper Fieldhouse to the Ballroom, which they made into a glorified cafeteria last year," Cooke said. "You can see Chick-fil-A from the stage, and parents sitting on the sides of the room would have to watch from a tiny screen."

According to Cooke, many seniors associate the Union Ballroom with informal campus events, such as Freshman Orientation's 'Graffiti Dance,' DPC's 'Epic Bingo' and various guest speakers.

For incoming freshmen, the matriculation ceremony that celebrates the start of a Duquesne student's academic journey has been held in the Fieldhouse, formerly known as the AJ Palumbo Center. For Cooke and others, students have expressed the desire for their academic experience at Duquesne to come "full circle" — graduating in the same building they were first introduced to at Duquesne.

"If the ceremony were held in the Power Center [Ballroom] or somewhere more professional, we wouldn't be having this discussion," Cooke said. "The [Union] Ballroom is outdated, and we don't want our ceremony to reflect that."

Senior secondary education and English major Vanessa Llewellyn was one of many concerned students who had signed the petition

upon hearing the news. Llewellyn said she was "gravely disappointed" that her graduating class would be overlooked in the Union Ballroom, considering the Class of 2022 would be earning their degrees amidst the worldwide spread of Covid-19.

"Not only have our tuition dollars gone toward the gorgeous new building that we aren't getting to walk in, but we are earning a degree in the middle of a pandemic. It's a huge accomplishment and deserves a celebration and ceremony that reflects the resilience of this class," Llewellyn said.

According to Llewellyn, students have expressed safety concerns with Covid, afraid that a smaller venue for graduation would make an audience more at-risk of contracting the virus without proper social-distance. Aside from this, Cooke said that there was no official announcement as to how many guests an individual student can bring to the ceremony, regardless of Covid-19 concerns or space available in the Union Ballroom.

As of Sunday, the petition had over 1,200 signatures.

Students in the other two schools have had their frustrations with the announcement, including music performance major Ethan Berman.

"I first heard about the news when I saw the petition being sent around," Berman said. "I wasn't too happy, and felt underappreciated."



ZOE STRATOS | OPINIONS EDITOR

Students are frustrated that commencement will be held in various locations this spring.

Summit teaches about racial justice

CORIE JENKINS
staff writer

The Pittsburgh Racial Justice Summit, in its 24th year fighting for representation, equality and equity in the Black community, was held last week, featuring best-selling authors, artists and advocates.

The event, held virtually and still available online, seeks to help Pittsburgh's community unify and connect through empowerment.

"This year's summit is focused on Equity In Action: Navigating Intersections of Racial Justice. What this means to us here at the summit is taking time to examine how we navigate our other identities in addition to our blackness," said Daeja Baker, the lead organizer. "This is an action of equity that we do for ourselves and our communities."

The summit, a multicultural initiative following the Black and White reunion first held in 1996, originated following the death of Jonny Gammage, a Black man killed by four white police officers in the suburbs of Pittsburgh.

The goal of the summit is to evaluate history and how white supremacy devolves into dehumanization and exploitation.

The panels started Friday night with internationally renowned, award-winning, best-selling Pittsburgh writers: Deesha Philyaw, author of "The Secret Lives of Church Ladies," Brian Broome, author of "Punch Me Up to the Gods," and Damon Young, author of "What Doesn't Kill You Makes You Blacker."

They promote justice in the Black community and write about faith and the concept of personal identity.

The summit included several sessions and addressed topics like Processing Second Hand Trauma, Intersections of Racial and Gender Justice in Public Policy.

"This organization makes sure that family members of those imprisoned feel as though they have the ability to advocate for their loved ones' safety and protection, especially in a prison society," said Shandre Delaney, part of the Human Rights Coalition in Pittsburgh.

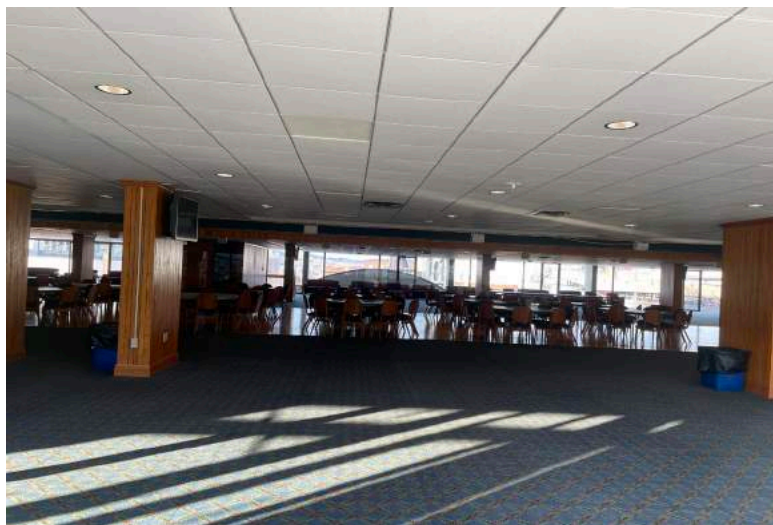
Racial trauma is defined as a mental and emotional injury that has come along with racial bias, discrimination of skin color and other hate crimes. Oftentimes, it comes in the form of secondhand trauma.

"Some of the work of racial justice requires that we consume and share stories of individual and state violence, oppression and trauma," said Alexandra To, the session's facilitator.

Discrimination based not only on race, but gender, disability, religion and sexual orientation affects every community.

"Racial justice intersects with gender justice, impacting all aspects of daily life such as housing, health, education, safety, etc," said Anupama Jain, who facilitated the session on Intersections of Racial and Gender Justice in Public Policy. "However, public policies have claimed to be 'colorblind' or 'gender neutral,' and often most benefited those with existing social privileges."

Students seek change for current commencement location



ZOE STRATOS | OPINIONS EDITOR

In an email from Provost David Dausey, it was mentioned that past graduation ceremonies have been held in the Union Ballroom.

ated. After four years of hard work, I felt like I deserved the same graduation experience everyone else was going to get."

The university responded to the grievances of students as early as Sunday, Jan. 23, through an email from Provost David Dausey. A portion of the email reads:

"The university's leadership team has been looking into the concerns raised by you and others who sent similar notes about the specific venue where our events professionals have planned the commencement for the School of Education, the Mary E. Pappert School of Music and the Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences."

The email continued on to list the many events hosted within the ballroom, stating it has hosted

"some of the most elegant and important events on campus over the years," while also holding "beautiful graduation ceremonies for more than 20 years."

Comments from all three of the schools' were included regarding the location.

"For many years, graduates of the Bayer School and their families have enjoyed celebrating their graduation in a Diploma Ceremony in the Union Ballroom," said Ellen Gwalt, dean of the Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences. "This venue has allowed everyone to be present and to be close enough to see their graduate proudly walk across the stage. We are looking forward to returning to this traditional graduation venue followed by our reception where

students and families celebrate and meet their graduate's friends and mentors who have supported them through their time at Duquesne."

Though students seem to be disappointed with the location of the ballroom, Dausey outlined prior complaints from students and families advocating for the smaller location, stating that the "UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse can appear half-empty and cavernous when used for these smaller schools."

University spokespeople did not comment on the max capacities of the spaces used for commencement.

Dausey also mentioned in the email that the university's leadership team is willing to further explore a venue change in response to complaints.

According to Dausey, event planners have advised that a possible combination of different schools' ceremonies may be the optimal solution, allowing for there to be sufficient changes in between the ceremonies, as well as a thorough cleaning.

Shortly after Dausey's email was sent to concerned students, the School of Education hosted an open Zoom conference with Dean Gretchen Generett to allow education students to officially voice their concerns brought forth by the petition, while also formulating alternative plans for the May commencement.

During the meeting, Generett said to students that she was "surprised and proud to get the petition," and wanted students to tell her directly what they wanted.

The meeting was largely open ended, allowing students to come forward with their reasons for not wanting the commencement in the ballroom. The list included, but was not limited to, worries about the size of the building, its use as a cafeteria during the height of Covid, its out-dated feel compared to the fieldhouse and social distancing capabilities.

Upon hearing their grievances, Generett offered two options to the students. The first being to combine the school of education commencement with another to avoid time overlap issues, while moving into the Fieldhouse. The second being to move the commencement to the Power Center Ballroom, which students voiced would provide a better environment than the Union.

In her closing remarks, Generett said administration would like the matter "reconciled within the next week," and urged her students to continue their advocacy, while also taking advantage of their access to her, and others within the school of education.

As of Wednesday, Jan. 26, Generett gave the okay for Cooke to send a poll through the petition. The poll asks whether or not students would be willing to switch the ceremony date to May 14 at 2 p.m. in order to accommodate requests for commencement in the Cooper Fieldhouse, or they can keep the original May 13 at 5 p.m. in the Union Ballroom.

To vote, graduates and parents/guardians of graduates must fill out the Google form in the link provided by the petition website.

Memorial commemorates stories of the Holocaust

REMEMBRANCE PAGE 1

the Russian Red Army.

"Sometimes as our knowledge of history fades, we think the United States was there at the liberation of Auschwitz," Apter Bairnsfather said.

She also spoke about the underlying importance of Holocaust education in a world that has become increasingly, violently anti-Semitic. Her comments were echoed by Duquesne Hill President Shai Maaravi.

Maaravi first came to the United States from Israel to attend school at Duquesne. While initially unafraid of life in the U.S., he said things changed rather quickly as he recognized the rise of anti-Semitic language and attacks happening across the country. He said he soon realized how "privileged" his life in Israel was.

"Here in America, life is very different," Maaravi said. "Until I moved to the United States, I never worried about my life as a Jew."

Pittsburgh, as several of the panelists noted, is no stranger to the rise in anti-Semitism.

On Oct. 27, 2018, 11 people were killed while attending Shabbat morning services at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Squirrel Hill. Six other congregants were injured.

With the deep wounds of anti-Semitism still healing, Rabbi Haz-

zan Jeffrey Myers of the Tree of Life Synagogue led the group in a pair of prayers for the dead, one of which asked that "those who have perished be eternally protected by God."

Joining him in prayer was the Rev. Bill Christy, Duquesne University chaplain. Christy quoted the prayers of Pope Francis on this day in 2020 fully condemning anti-Semitism and spoke of the need for the Church to stand against hate by remembering the terrors of the past.

"Memory...Memory is a must," Christy said.

In response to this call to remember the past, the event also featured keynote speaker David Rosenberg. Rosenberg, a local scholar and archivist, has been telling the unknown stories of the Holocaust for nearly a decade.

"Sensing a vacuum of knowledge," he compiled an extensive archive of the stories of the citizens of Amiens, France, throughout World War II which have been curated into an exhibit called "Who is a Jew? Amiens, France 1940-1945." The exhibit includes several first-hand accounts of life at the time and will be on display on the fourth floor of Gumberg Library until Feb. 4.

Hidden in the most ordinary letters and correspondence, Rosenberg brings back to life the daily struggles of a Jewish community in northern



COLLEN HAMMOND | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The exhibit is located on the fourth floor of the Gumberg Library and will be up until Feb. 4. It includes stories of survivors as well as other pieces of history.

France during Nazi occupation.

One such placard in the exhibit tells the story of Armand Dreyfus, a general store owner in Cayeux-sur-Mer in 1942. In his letter, he asked government officials to stay the eviction order placed against them for the Jewish heritage. He argued that he and his wife should be allowed to stay in the lodgings adjacent to their business, although it was being "aryanized."

"In explaining my situation I am hopeful that you can intercede in order to annul this measure, which seems to me exceedingly harsh," Dreyfus said in his March 1942 letter.

Not long after, Dreyfus and his wife, Franny, were arrested and deported to the Auschwitz-Birke-

nau camp. Neither were known to have survived.

It is stories like these that Rosenberg said he sought "to drive the history into recognition and awareness."

Learning about these events, however uncomfortable, Rosenberg said, keep the memory of the Holocaust alive and combat the looming threats of ignorance and hatred. In preserving the legacy of the millions of victims, Rosenberg, Apter Bairnsfather, Baron, Christy and Myers hope to do their part to prevent atrocities like this in the future.

"To commit to the pledge never again, we must first never forget," Maaravi said.

PMEA offers young musicians chance to perform with Duq community

EMMA POLLEN
feature editor

This year, Duquesne was selected to host the annual Pennsylvania Music Educators (PMEA) District 1 Band West Festival which will be held in the Powers Center ballroom.

On Jan. 28 and 29, students might notice a younger crowd of musicians roaming on campus.

The musicians consist of 133 talented 10th to 12th grade students selected from across 34 school districts in Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington and Westmoreland counties.

Because of Covid-19, the audition process was moved to completely digital, but the performances will still be in-person. In fact, the in-person experience was one reason North Hills High School junior clarinet player Tyler Worker was excited to try out for PMEA.

"I chose to audition for PMEA this year because I was excited to have in-person festivals again," Worker said, "I always learn something new from the guest conductor, either if it's a new way to practice, how to play my instrument better or just how to be a better person."

Worker has participated in PMEA for five years, but this is the first PMEA band he will be part of on the district level.

Most years, high schools participating in the festival takes turns hosting the event. However, this year, high school students and band directors will be offered a unique opportunity to visit Duquesne.

Paul Doerksen is a professor of music education at the Mary Pappert School of Music, and he will be managing the behind-the-scenes operations of the PMEA West Festival. After 18 years of involvement with PMEA, Doerksen is happy for a chance for Duquesne to host the festival and show what the school can offer to young musicians.

"I'm glad the opportunity came along to step up," he said.

All throughout Friday and Saturday, high school students will continue to receive special learning opportunities from the Duquesne music community.

The festival is split into two 8-hour days consisting of rehearsals, lunch, masterclasses and finally the performance beginning at 4 p.m. on Saturday.

James Gourlay, director of bands at the Mary Pappert School of Music and the 2022 PMEA West guest conductor, will be in charge of rehearsing the group. Gourlay explained the significance of incorporating masterclasses with professional players from the music school into the festival.

"To meet a specialist, particularly someone from the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra... who's at the top of the profession, and learn from that person would be a bit like Ben Roethlisberger teaching people to throw a ball and I think they'll have a lasting effect on the students," Gourlay said.

During the luncheon, high school students will also be entertained by Duquesne's Jazz Faculty Septet, which Doerksen

mentioned as yet another opportunity for the Mary Pappert School of Music to show off their prestige as one of the top destinations for potential music students in the area.

High school band directors will have a chance to learn from the Duquesne music school staff through technology, clarinet and percussion workshops. The collegiate-level and high school band teachers will work together to make music education in the area even stronger.

Suellen Engelhard, the Sto-Rox High School Band Director, will be representing Sto-Rox school district at the festival along with two of her student musicians.

"I am looking forward to the collaboration time with colleagues," Engelhard said. "PMEA festivals provide time for directors to share experiences and brainstorm together."

Current Duquesne music students will also benefit from the event.

Robert Traugh, adjunct professor of music technology, will be assisting Doerksen with running the event. He shared how the 47 participating undergraduate music school students will get to work alongside the younger high school musicians.

"There's so much to learn. Something like this is putting those skills [interacting with K-12 students] into practice for maybe a student who's a sophomore or a junior and hasn't had the opportunity to do any field placement student



GRIFFIN SECDEDEK | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

PMEA District 1 Band West Festival will be held in the Powers Center ballroom.

teaching," Traugh said.

Despite the challenges of Covid, the concert will maintain a degree of normalcy. Gourlay is looking forward to performing with the student musicians in-person.

"The preciousness of that is incredible," Gourlay said. "And it's something that if we ever took for granted...we'll never do that again."

One major tradition that will be maintained at this year's festival is that of the band uniforms. Students are asked to wear their band uniforms to represent the school they come from.

"The band uniforms show the diversity in the band," Engelhard said. "Each uniform is unique and is a great representation of all the schools participating in the festival."

The performance at the end of PMEA on Saturday will be live streamed at 4 pm. Tune in and open the PDF of the program with the QR codes below.



Campus students unable to get free Covid-19 tests sent to Duquesne

ALICIA DYE
staff writer

Students who live on campus have had issues ordering the free Covid tests to their campus address.

On January 14, 2021, the Biden Administration announced that they would be purchasing one billion at home Covid-19 tests that Americans could order for free, and get shipped to their homes. Half a

billion of these tests were available starting on January 19, but many have reported having issues with ordering tests, including Duquesne Students.

Students who have tried to order the tests and type in their campus address receive a message that says "At-home COVID-19 tests have already been ordered for this address."

Many students are frustrated and upset about the error.

"I want the tests just in case.

A lot of students don't wear their masks, and I'm worried about catching it," said Rihyun Kim, a graduate student here at the university.

Cases of Covid-19 have been on the rise here at the university, as well as in the city of Pittsburgh. Duquesne has had a seven day average of 10 student cases, as of January 26, according to the university Covid-19 dashboard. Allegheny County has had a seven day average of 2,039, according to the official dashboard.

"As someone who is immunocompromised, I want to have the tests on hand so I can take all the precautions I need to," said Jacob Easley, a Duquesne Towers resident. "Getting tested on and off campus is extremely difficult, so these tests would help."

"All students can get tested by health services if they are symptomatic," said Health Services Director, Joy L. Dougherty. "Additional testing strategies for asymptomatic students are currently being developed, more details are coming soon."

Health Services, where students can get tested for Covid if



ALICIA DYE | STAFF WRITER

Students can submit a request to UPS about receiving Covid-19 test.

they need to

While test availability is at an all time low, Duquesne students have no need to worry. "We placed a very large order, and we have more than enough for the semester and beyond," said Dougherty.

Students can go to <https://www.covidtests.gov/> to order tests. The site will redirect students to the USPS site, where they can attempt to order tests and file a service request if needed.

Duquesne Mailing Services, where students would be able to pick up the free Covid tests.

Students can submit a request to USPS about receiving the Covid-19 tests although the response time can range from one to seven days, or even more, as USPS is receiving a large amount of requests. Students can also call 1-800-ASK-USPS (1-800-275-8777) to help with ordering a covid test.

Students should not call local USPS offices, as they only redirect students to the hotline to submit a request.

At the time of writing, it remains unknown if students will be able to get the Covid tests shipped to campus.



ALICIA DYE | STAFF WRITER

Students can visit the health services office to get tested if they are symptomatic.

Two hockey players disciplined for racial incidents

Krystof Hrabik was suspended for 30 games in the American Hockey League, while Jacob Panetta was released and is no longer rostered in the East Coast Hockey League.

LUKE HENNE
sports editor

A pair of minor-league hockey players in separate leagues were disciplined for their involvement in separate racial incidents during games this month.

On Friday, the San Jose Barracuda suspended Krystof Hrabik. His suspension, which is 30 games long, is the result of a gesture he made toward the Tucson Roadrunners' Boko Imama during an American

made in the heat of battle and while I didn't mean anything racist by what I did, I realize now through my own ignorance how my gesture could be interpreted. I alone am responsible for that, it was terrible, and I make no excuses. When I heard about Boko's reaction to the gesture, I was horrified by what I had done."

Hrabik's statement also indicated that he sent a personal apology to Imama.

The Barracuda also released a statement, indicating that Hrabik will be eligible to

ing in multiple penalties on both sides."

Subban quoted Jacksonville's tweet with a response of his own, saying, "More like @JPanetta12 was too much of a coward to fight me and as soon as I began to turn my back he started making monkey gestures at me so I punched him in the face multiple times and he turtled like the coward he is. There fixed it."

Jacksonville issued a statement on Sunday, announcing that although the incident still has to be reviewed at the league level, the team "will be releasing the player involved effectively immediately and will continue [their] mission of sharing [their] love of community and hockey."

Jacksonville's decision to immediately release Panetta without a completion of league-level investigation also raises questions.

Is this a full commitment to the franchise having a zero-tolerance policy toward racism? Or, is it more a matter of Jacksonville no longer wanting to deal with the baggage Panetta's action carries, regardless of what the league investigation finds?

Panetta posted a video to Twitter on Sunday, in which he said that he told Subban that "You're only tough once the refs get involved." He said that he followed that comment to Subban with a "tough guy, body-builder like gesture," the same gesture he said he's made to "non-racialized players a number of times when there have been on-ice confrontations."

Panetta proceeded, reiterating that he used "no racial slurs, noises or anything of the like" during the incident.

Before finishing his video, Panetta said that racism and other forms of discrimination have no place in hockey or society.

"I believed that before, and I still believe that now," Panetta said. "I intend to fully participate in the ECHL's ongoing investigation in this matter, and I will continue to try and reach out and contact Jordan and the Subban family to express my regret."

Despite Panetta's comments, racial gestures directed at African Americans have become a regular occurrence in professional hockey, most notably at the NHL level.

According to NBC Sports, the Philadelphia Flyers' Wayne Simmonds had a banana thrown at him from the crowd during a shootout attempt in a 2011 preseason game. When asked about it after the game, Simmonds said, "When you're Black, you kind of expect [racist] things. You learn to deal with it."

In 2012, the Capitals' Joel Ward was the victim of racist tweets following his series-clinching goal in the team's first-round playoff victory over the Boston Bruins.

In 2018, per NPR, Washington's Devante Smith-Pelly heard chants of "Basketball, basketball, basketball" as he sat in the penalty box during a game at the United Center in Chicago against the Chicago Blackhawks.

In a league where, according to Sports Illustrated, only 18 Black players appeared in more than five games during the 2019-2020 season, the representation is still thin and the problem will find a

way to persist. If the issue isn't addressed and resolved at the NHL level, it creates a direct path for letting similar behavior continue to infiltrate the AHL, ECHL and other lower-level leagues.

Will the issue get enough attention if the sport continues to see such a small representation of African Americans?

In a series of tweets following the incident, P.K. Subban (Jordan's brother who currently plays in the NHL with the New Jersey Devils) called out Panetta.

"They don't call the east coast league the jungle because my brother and the other Black players are the monkeys," Subban said in his first tweet. "Hey @jacobpanetta you shouldn't be so quick [to] delete your Twitter or your Instagram account you will probably be able to play again... that's what history says but things are changing."

Hrabik's and Panetta's actions and subsequent punishments came just before and after the Bruins held a jersey retirement ceremony at TD Garden for Willie O'Ree, who broke the NHL's color barrier on Jan. 18, 1958, prior to the team's Jan. 18 game.

Over 60 years after O'Ree's historic accomplishment, the league and sport still face a crisis worth addressing.

Imama, a recurring victim of the prevalent discrimination, wants nothing more than this battle to stop.

He closed his statement by saying, "My hope is that people learn from this and that some day hockey will truly be for everyone."



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Washington's Devante Smith-Pelly was targeted by opposing fans in Chicago during a 2018 game.

Hockey League game on Jan. 12 in San Jose, Calif.

According to ESPN's Greg Wyshynski, Hrabik "imitated the movements of a monkey in a taunt that targeted Imama, who is Black." Wyshynski also noted that this taunt "was spotted by players on the Roadrunners bench, and Hrabik was confronted on the ice by Tucson's Travis Barron while Imama was held back by a linesman during a stoppage in play."

Following the AHL's decision, Imama released a statement on Twitter, part of which said, "Even though I honestly believe the sport has made positive strides, we still have a long way to go to educate the ignorant and to make hockey a safe place for everyone."

He added, "We have enough to worry about as pro hockey players, and it saddens me when anyone has to deal with these types of issues."

Imama was also the target of a racial incident in 2020, when he was a member of the AHL's Ontario Reign. In a game against the Bakersfield Condors, Bakersfield's Brandon Manning was assessed a misconduct penalty after using a racial slur toward Imama. As a result, Manning was suspended for five games, per The Hockey News.

Hrabik issued a statement on Friday, in which he apologized and also added, "People should know that I had absolutely no inappropriate intent. The gesture was

apply for reinstatement after 21 of the 30 games have passed. His reinstatement will depend on "an evaluation of his progress in training provided by the NHL Player Inclusion Committee."

The disparity in suspension lengths stemming from incidents in which Imama was targeted raises an important question: What's the difference in intent?

Why, in a span of just two years, did the appropriate suspension length jump from five games to 30 games? With two similar racially motivated incidents occurring, wouldn't consistency be important? Does Hrabik's gesture carry more weight than Manning's slur did? Is Hrabik's lengthy suspension the product of a culture more committed to social justice than those that came before?

Just one day after the AHL announced Hrabik's suspension, another racial incident came to the forefront during a Saturday-night game in Jacksonville, Fla.

At the tail end of a brawl in an East Coast Hockey League contest between the South Carolina Stingrays (the Washington Capitals' affiliate) and the Jacksonville Icemen (the New York Rangers' affiliate), an individual scuffle between South Carolina's Jordan Subban and Jacksonville's Jacob Panetta ensued when Panetta made a gesture toward Subban. It was insinuated that the gesture was racially motivated.

Following the fight, the Icemen tweeted, "Overtime began with a rough fight result-



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Jordan Subban - seen here in 2015 during his tenure with the AHL's Utica Comets - was the target of a racial incident this past Saturday during an ECHL game in Jacksonville, Fla.

MBB falls to St. Bonaventure, Saint Joseph's

LUKE HENNE
sports editor

The Duquesne men's basketball team progressed through its Atlantic 10 Conference portion of the schedule with a pair of games this past week.

The Dukes hosted St. Bonaventure at UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse on Friday night before traveling to Hagan Arena in Philadelphia for a road contest with Saint Joseph's on Wednesday night.

12:12 left in the game. The Dukes then got as close as five (57-52) with 4:10 remaining.

When it mattered most, however, Duquesne only converted on two of its final seven field-goal attempts. This stretch of misses included four unsuccessful attempts from beyond the arc.

After losing by 20 points (72-52) to Dayton on Jan. 15, Duquesne Head Coach Keith Dambrot said there were some positives to take out of the loss against St. Bonaventure — his team's third in a row.



BRENTARO YAMANE | LAYOUT EDITOR

Duquesne's Primo Spears guards St. Bonaventure's Kyle Lofton during Friday night's game at the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse. Spears led the Dukes in both points (18) and assists (six) in the contest.

Friday night's home contest saw the Dukes fall to the Bonnies 64-56. Despite trailing by as many as 16 points (23-7) during the first half and 11 points (33-22) at halftime, Duquesne rallied to trim St. Bonaventure's lead to three (42-39) with

"You're looking at a very inexperienced team against a very experienced team [in St. Bonaventure]," Dambrot said. "We showed a little bit better fight, and I certainly thought we played a better brand."

Dambrot cited his team's first-half per-

formance and the inability to make shots in the game's final stretch as the main factors that led to defeat.

"When it mattered, we didn't make," Dambrot said. "We showed some progress. In my heart of hearts, I don't think we're that far away. I don't think we're good, right now, but I don't think we're that far away from being a competitive team."

Primo Spears, who scored in double figures (18 points) for the 11th time in 16 games this season, said that he believes the key to success moving forward is sustaining momentum for an entire game, not just in brief stints.

"I thought we played good in spurts," Spears said. "We've just got to focus on playing a solid 40 minutes of basketball."

Wednesday's game provided Duquesne with an opportunity to secure a road victory against a Saint Joseph's team that had lost five of its prior six games following an 83-56 dismantling of Richmond on Dec. 30.

Despite trailing 54-53 with just under nine minutes to go, Saint Joseph's used a 19-7 run to close out the game and earn a 72-61 win. The win helped the Hawks snap a brief two-game skid against the Dukes, which dated back to Jan. 8, 2020.

The Dukes trailed by as many as 16 (36-20) with 2:21 remaining in the first half, but found themselves up by as many three (46-43) with just over 13 minutes remaining in the game.

"I thought we made a good comeback," Dambrot said. "[But] we haven't shown that we can consistently close anything though, so you can't feel too good about yourself until you can consistently close something."

With the loss, Duquesne has now lost 22 of its 26 all-time road games against Saint Joseph's. The loss also pushed Duquesne's losing streak to four-consecutive games,

which is tied for the team's longest this season (from Nov. 13 to Nov. 20).

After scoring a combined two points in Duquesne's last two games prior to Wednesday, Jackie Johnson III bounced back with a 19-point effort. Eleven of Johnson's 19 points came in the second half, but he was kept off the scoreboard for the remainder of the game following a successful free-throw attempt with 12:41 left in the contest.

After a made layup from Spears cut the Hawks' lead to three (59-56) with 6:39 remaining, the Dukes were able to muster just two made field goals for the remainder of the game. One of those was a 3-pointer from Tre Williams with 25 seconds left.

"I feel like we kind of lost our mental toughness, our will to win," Dambrot said.

While nursing a six-point lead with just under five minutes remaining, Saint Joseph's turned to Ejike Obinna, who made a layup and three dunks to help push the Hawks' lead back into double digits for good.

The Hawks used a balanced scoring attack in the 11-point victory. All five of the team's starters scored in double figures, with Jordan Hall pacing the lineup with 18 points.

"I'm just disappointed that we just couldn't finish the job," Dambrot said. "I mean, we've just got to do better."

Duquesne will return home to take on Saint Louis at the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse on Saturday afternoon.

The Dukes have won 10 of their last 15 meetings against the Billikens. That stretch began on Feb. 27, 2014, when Duquesne won a road game against a Saint Louis team that was ranked No. 10 in the nation.

The two teams were scheduled to meet last season on Dec. 30, 2020, in St. Louis, Mo. However, the game was postponed and ultimately never played due to Covid-19-related issues.

WBB beats George Mason in home clash

BRENTARO YAMANE
layout editor

Throughout this season, the Duquesne women's basketball team has tried to overcome obstacles, whether in the form of getting players fully healthy or learning how to preserve leads later in games.

One obstacle that Duquesne has steered clear of for a long time is losing to George Mason. Since the Patriots joined the Atlantic 10 Conference prior to the 2013-14 season, the Dukes had never lost to them in nine tries entering Wednesday's contest.

Duquesne was able to extend its winning streak against George Mason to 10-straight games with a 67-55 victory on Wednesday night at the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse.

"Obviously, we're happy to get the win," Head Coach Dan Burt said. "We have beaten [George] Mason a fair amount over the years, and we told our kids that this is not the Mason team that anyone knows."

"These are all new kids. They don't know the history of the series. They're scrappy, tough and gritty and they were going to give us their best shot and they did."

After the Dukes held a 37-29 edge at half-

time, the Patriots kept it close, starting the third quarter on a 6-0 run to trim their deficit to just two points.

The Patriots took their first lead of the game at the 2:28 mark of the third quarter, when Paula Suarez made a free throw to give the Patriots a 43-42 advantage.

However, a successful 3-pointer from Tess Myers near the end of the third quarter gave the Dukes a 47-46 lead.

From there, the Dukes never looked back, as they outscored the Patriots by a 20-9 mark in the final quarter to secure a double-digit victory. Myers, who led Duquesne with 15 points, made the shots down when it mattered most.

"You can't criticize any of the shots that she took tonight. It just took her a little while to get warm," Burt said. "She had open looks, and they were all good shots."

"You just got to keep letting kids who can really shoot it shoot themselves out of a little slump, which is what she had earlier in the game."

One of Duquesne's strengths in the victory was the ability to limit George Mason's top scorer. Amaya Scott entered the game averaging 18.6 points per game, but the Dukes

were able to hold her to just 10.

Burt considered this a good night. In his preparation for Wednesday's game, he said that he and his staff classified Scott as "arguably the most-athletic player in the league."

As the season progresses, the Dukes are starting to fit into their respective roles. Libby Bazalak, who gets the team going in transition, possesses a key strength that Burt acknowledged.

Libby made just one of nine shots from the field, scoring two points in the win. While the box score reflected a lackluster performance, Burt disagreed with that notion.

He said that Bazalak's ability to "break pressure" was crucial because "[they're] best when [they] don't have to run sets and can play in transition and play with some freedom."

"She was the best player on the floor to do that," Burt said. "She was excellent getting the ball below the free-throw line in transition."

Duquesne will look to extend its winning streak to three consecutive games on Sunday afternoon, when it hosts LaSalle at the fieldhouse.

The Explorers ended the Dukes' 2020-21 season with a 72-68 overtime victory in the second round of the A-10 tournament.



BRENTARO YAMANE | LAYOUT EDITOR

Tess Myers watches as her 3-point attempt goes down. She led Duquesne with 15 points.

Kate Denman blooms with release of new single

CAPRI SCARCELLI
a&e editor

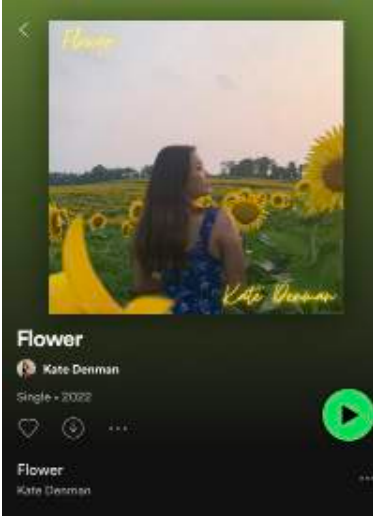
In college, it’s difficult to follow your creative pursuits when it seems as though there is no time to.

For Duquesne student Katelyn Denman, however, songwriting has become a new passion that has led her to publish a single on streaming platforms.

“Flower” was released on Spotify, Apple Music and other streaming platforms on Jan. 14. Through Distrokid, a website for independently produced music distribution, Denman was able to upload her single to be pre-saved for release.

The song itself reflects a concept that everyone can relate to, even without a specific storyline to follow, according to Denman.

“Everyone can add their own ideas to it. Everyone is going through something, but they will



CAPRI SCARCELLI | A&E EDITOR

Her first published work, Kate Denman said she is excited for this release and for more to come.

always have someone there for them,” Denman said. “I was thinking of symbolic things in nature and decided on flowers, especially with the lines ‘bloom into a flower, you beautiful disaster,’ then made a story from there.”

Starting as a hobby her freshman year, Denman found that she wanted to expand her talents out of her comfort zone, using her knowledge as a piano player and singer to try the art form in a new way.

“Piano used to be a big outlet for me. Now that it is more like a job, song-writing has become something like a hobby for me, something fun for me to do,” Denman said. “It was a good way to let out some emotion, collaborate with people, and it gave me exposure.”

Denman said the learning process of producing original music was a difficult one, though worth the effort to fulfill her vision. Starting off with soft piano chords and vocals, her and her friend, music tech major Tyler Herholdt, were able to add technological instrumentation such as electric guitar, acoustic guitar, bass and harmonies.

According to Denman, this single was also a project she could add to her running portfolio as a music student.

Denman’s professor, Dr. Doerksen, schedules meetings to oversee student progress, where Denman was able to give a shout out to her single. In the meeting, she was able to show the first scraps of sheet music that turned into a fully-produced work.

“I am currently working on a

few other projects which I am excited to release. I have a lot of different genres I have been working with — like I have one with a jazzier tune, another with strings, so I think I will start out by releasing singles until the songs seem to combine together into an EP,” Denman said.

“A lot of the creative process is finding your new outlet,” Denman said. “Through music education, you are forced to improvise, write your own arrangements and sometimes you are able to produce for fun, whether that be learning a new instrument or trying a new genre. My outlet became song-writing.”

Denman said that before college, she had no inspiration to write her own music.

“My main thing was playing piano and singing in the choir, I never thought to write a song,” Denman said. “I went to a private school, and music wasn’t really a strong suit there. I felt like an outcast in the music world, but coming here I noticed everyone was trying new things, so I thought I would come out of my comfort zone [with music] too, and I ended up liking it a lot.”

As advice to aspiring singer-songwriters, Denman puts it simply and precisely: “go for it.”

“You have nothing to lose. I never thought that I could do it, but I didn’t know until I actually tried. People can do more than they say they can,” Denman said. “Even if you aren’t a music person, if you write all of your lyrics down, they don’t have to rhyme, it doesn’t have to be per-



CAPRI SCARCELLI | A&E EDITOR

Using symbolism in nature, Denman decided to use flowers as a central concept for growth and well-being in her lyrics.

fect. Letting out your emotions, talking to a music person, even just sitting down at a piano and seeing what you can do. You have to be willing.”

Denman’s single “Flower” is available for streaming now on Spotify and Apple Music, and listeners can look forward to more music to come.

CAMPUS
EVENTS

- Swing Ballroom Lesson
Jan. 27 @ 8 p.m.
- Interested in free dance lessons? Wanting to exercise in a fun way? Go to the Power Center Group Fitness Studio to get your groove on!
- Bingo Night!
Jan. 27 @ 9 p.m.
- Join the Center for Student Involvement in the Union NiteSpot for a classic night of bingo, prizes and more!
- DPC DUNite:
Build Your Own Gourmet Ice Cream Sandwiches!
Jan. 28 @ 9 p.m.
- Go to the NiteSpot for a DIY ice cream night! Supplies limited.
- Campus Bag Design
Craft Night
Jan. 31 @ 9 p.m.
- Decorate your own tote bag with custom Duquesne decals! Snacks provided.

CAPRI'S
KIND WORDS

Celebrate small victories

Are you giving yourself enough credit these days? Are you reveling in your highs and defeating your lows?

Sometimes we get so caught up in our routines that we forget that what we do takes a lot of power. We are here to learn more about ourselves, and grow into our better selves through these experiences, big or small.

Think: What would you tell a stranger? Is there something you do that fills your heart with joy? Are there things that you do that others may find impressive, but you usually shrug it off?

Now apply that to your character. Get into the habit of writing down what is working and what is not. Make change as needed, but continue to flourish in all that brings you light.

You deserve the chance to feel pride for how far you've come, and for what is to come so soon.

— Capri Scarcelli

Aquarius Wait are you dressed for the farm show?	Pisces You're awesome.	Aries Love language is literally just saying hi.	Taurus *crickets*
Gemini Penguin-walking to the dance floor.	Cancer Bashful much?	Leo Hey queeeen :)	Virgo Crying but in the cute mysterious way.
Libra Slippy or slippery.	Scorpio Gym bros, but make it tap dancing down the basketball court.	Sagittarius Apple Pay is not an acceptable form of payment for tuition bills.	Capricorn Did your mom teach you to mop the floor like that?

Pittsburgh Concert Round-Up: Music on the way

ISABELLA ABBOT
staff writer

With stadium and concert arenas beginning to open back up again, Pittsburgh has a number of electrifying performances scheduled this year. From the PPG Paints Arena — a walk away from campus — to Stage AE on the North Shore, Duquesne students have many different performances and locations to choose from.

Many artists, even those who haven't performed in years, are ready for booming crowds again — and are desperately waiting for their return.

Entertainment venue PPG Paints Arena, known for hosting concerts and athletic events, is presenting an

extensive amount of artists including well-known modern pop star Billie Eilish and singer-songwriter John Mayer.

"Bad Guy" singer, Eilish, is set to perform with artist WILLOW on Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m. for her world tour, Happier Than Ever. The highly anticipated event will include the Billie Eilish Action Village at each show which focuses on climate action and will reduce the environmental footprint of the tour.

The youngest person to ever win a Grammy for album of the year, Eilish, is set to include her entire new album in the short duration of 65-minute shows.

As for the "Gravity" singer, John Mayer will be at the PPG Paints

Arena on February 25 at 7:30 p.m. His Sob Rock Tour will include the singer's eighth album, "Sob Rock," best known for being a feel-good album.

Other performances at this venue include Justin Bieber's Justice tour set for April 4 at 7:30 p.m., rescheduled from last July 1. The tour, which will honor tickets for the rescheduled date, includes 52 dates with special guests JADEN and ¿Téo? who will be there for all concerts.

Guidelines for these events include a mask recommendation indoors, except while eating or drinking. For safety reasons, bags are prohibited.

At the Petersen Events Center, at the University of Pittsburgh, students will be able to watch Tyler, The Creator's CALL ME IF YOU GET LOST tour on March 12 starting at 7 p.m. Tyler is returning to Pittsburgh after three years for his new album, which debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 charts in June 2021. He will be joined by Vince Staples, Kali Uchis and Teezo Touchdown.

Another concert students can look forward to at the Petersen Events Center is *Dear Evan Hansen* star Ben Platt's Reverie tour. His biggest North American headline tour will be in Pittsburgh on March 8 starting at 8 p.m. Platt will be touring

with special guest pop-singer Jake Wesley Rogers as well.

Covid-19 policies at the Events Center require masks for individuals except when eating or drinking. And, some special events require proof of vaccination or negative test results.

On the North Shore of Pittsburgh, Stage AE is hosting a variety of performers as well.

Former One Direction member Louis Tomlinson will be on stage on Feb. 14 starting at 6:30 p.m. for his Louis Tomlinson World Tour. This is the singer's first concert tour,

supporting his debut album Walls, which came out on Jan. 31, 2020.

Also coming to the stage will be Australian singer, The Kid LAROI, on March 5 starting at 6 p.m. The End Of The World tour will have 51 dates while the concerts will last approximately 2 hours.

To attend any event at Stage AE, patrons are required to provide proof of full vaccination or a negative test within 72 hours to enter.

Tickets for all events can be found on sites SeatGeek, Ticketmaster and Vivid Seats and on venue websites.



COURTESY OF KALEY LOVE

North Shore venue Stage AE is open for concerts coming to Pittsburgh throughout the spring.

JACOB YANOSICK
staff writer

Many venues around Pittsburgh have continued to announce concert lineups despite the ongoing COVID pandemic, with some tours having to be canceled or postponed.

This unfortunately leads to uncertainty with whether shows will still be happening or not.

Some venues have also updated their guidelines for entry. Stage AE is now allowing either full vaccination or a negative test within 72 hours. PPG Paints Arena has no entry requirements, only a mask recommendation.

Petersen Events Center also has no entry requirements, but requires masks at events.

Provided is a list of upcoming popular events at the major venues. Full events lists can be found on the venues' websites.

Stage AE:
2/3 Dillon Francis x Yung Gravy
2/13 Still Woozy
2/14 Louis Tomlinson
2/16 Yungblud
2/18 Beach House
3/14 Oliver Tree
3/19 Mayday Parade

PPG Paints Arena:
2/8 Billie Eilish
2/22 Journey w/ Billy Idol
2/25 John Mayer
3/1 Tool
3/26 Eagles
4/4 Justin Bieber

Pavilion at Star Lake:
5/14 Foo Fighters

Petersen Events Center:
3/7 Tame Impala
3/12 Tyler, The Creator
5/11 Deftones

When We Were Young festival sparks controversy

JOHN CANTWELL
staff writer

In a world of trap music, rap, country-pop, and an almost daily update on Kanye West's relationship status, the former skinny jean-wearing scene kids who lurked their local malls in high school finally had their day on Jan. 18, when Live Nation announced When We Were Young fest, taking place on Oct. 22.

With an out-of-nowhere Instagram post, the festival revealed the poster and lineup for the event, with a purple and black theme that is certain to hit Hot Topic kids with a wave of nostalgia. Boasting a lineup of 60 bands, with the lineup consisting of sad kid staples such as My Chemical Romance, Paramore, Avril Lavigne, Hawthorne Heights, A Day to Remember, Bring Me the Horizon and even newer acts such as Lil Huddy and Jxdn.

Although the event appears to be heaven for everyone involved in the

alternative music scene, there has been great debate about the logistics of the festival surrounding set times, stages, ticket prices and a multitude of other possible safety hazards.

At first glance, with literally 60 bands, one would assume that the event would take place over two or three days — giving every band a feasible set time — but this was originally not the case. The festival was set to take place from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. With only three stages, how would it have been possible that all of the bands (including the headliners) would be able to play more than a half hour set?

Slated for its original 12-hour time frame, tickets sold out fast, and with high demand. Because of this, promoters announced that the festival was having a second day on Oct. 23, with the same lineup and same time slots for the bands. Emos and pop punkers were quick to gather their tickets for the second day as well,

which then led the festival to add a third day, a week after on Oct. 29.

Another major concern that has concertgoers proceeding with caution is the fact that the event is sponsored by Live Nation, the same company who was responsible for Travis Scott's Astroworld disaster in November, which left 10 attendees dead. With the excessive amounts of lawsuits that are piling up involving Live Nation, the controversies of the promoter are at an all-time high.

Ticket prices and bundles have also been subject to confusion, as the festival revealed that there is a no refund policy available for ticket holders. Not only is this suspicious for the festival attendees who are paying more than \$200 for a single ticket, but the fact that there is no return policy when the world is still in the middle of a global pandemic is alarming.

Many outlets have compared the announcement of When We Were



COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS

Pop-punk band Paramore is to be featured in the upcoming When We Were Young festival.

Young to 2017's FYRE Festival, which was supposed to be a luxurious music festival in the Bahamas, when it became apparent that the event was a massive scam that saw no success.

Although When We Were Young is a dream come true for wallet chain wearing former scene kids, will it logistically work out in the end?

With the promoters already being drowned in controversy over the Astroworld tragedy, how will they recover their name and reputation from criticism?

With October being nine months away, and concertgoers already buying their tickets, hopefully When We Were Young will not be at an all time low.

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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“Truth will ultimately
prevail where there
is pains to bring it to
light.”

GEORGE WASHINGTON

CORRECTIONS:

In last week's article about the Duquesne women's basketball team, the article said that the team was outscored by Rhode Island 25-15 in the fourth quarter.

However, the team was outscored 23-15.

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@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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The mixed bag of Biden's first year

The news this past week has been an overload of reviews and numbers on President Joe Biden's first year in office.

The start of Biden's presidency was less than normal, leading off with the Jan. 6 insurrection that disrupted the count of electoral votes necessary to officially place the former vice president in office.

Despite the rocky start, Biden was sitting at a comfortable 60% approval rating from the public, even though many voters said that it's not that they particularly loved Biden — they just didn't like former President Donald Trump; They felt it was time for a different president to take us back to normalcy.

But as Biden's first year progressed, approval ratings continually dropped, and Covid-19 continually ravaged the nation as the Omicron variant emerged. It's safe to say Biden's first year has been a mixed bag, and typical of that of a politician: he promised big, delivered little.

The drop in approval rating, sitting currently at a low 43%, has little to do with being too liberal or too old, but more so toward his decision-making skills in important issues such as Covid, Afghanistan policy and voting-reform legislation.

Biden and his administration are too reactive in every situation.

First and foremost, the Covid pandemic was one of the main talking points during the presidential debates. Both Trump and Biden promised to bring the country back from the devastation the virus caused for two years, yet it's still here and cases are surging.

Recently, the Biden administration approved and sent out four at-home Covid tests for each household in the United States, but the distribution could have come much earlier in the presidency — before the Omicron variant spread rapidly through the country. Although the country is at fault for disregarding

calls for vaccination, and general Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, the administration should have expected it, and acted sooner.

On top of the reactive decision to send out the tests, it was also poorly thought out, causing many colleges and apartment complexes across the nation to miss out on home delivered tests due to having the same address.

Moreover, many of the bills proposed for vaccine mandates within the workplace have been rejected, and seen as an overstep of the executive branch upon the American people. Opinion



ZOE STRATOS
opinions editor

aside, legally, Biden should have seen the Supreme Court decision coming from a mile away.

In early September, Biden made the decision to fully withdraw U.S. troops from Afghanistan while the Taliban reclaimed control of the nation. Though he was correct in omitting lies about reports regarding the progress of the war in Afghanistan, his reactive and chaotic decision to pull out troops without thought for citizens only undermines American hegemony, and sows doubt in U.S. commitment to international cooperation. The failure was one of domestic and international concern.

The latest agenda item has

been voter suppression. Ever since the 2020 election, voting rights has been at the forefront of Capitol conversation, yet little action has been taken by Biden and Congress to assure voters of their safety. Two weeks ago, the Biden administration traveled to Atlanta to speak on the issues, calling on Congress to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and the Freedom to Vote Act.

Instead of facing the issue head-on earlier, as he mentioned 19 states enacted 34 laws attacking voter rights in 2021, he waited until 400 more bills were proposed this year to take action.

But even with little delivery in certain departments, he's done fairly well in others.

A major talking point of his campaign was his unrelenting support for striking workers and labor unions. The president supported strikes at John Deere, Kellogg's and unionization of Amazon workers in Alabama.

Moreover, in 2021, the economy added a record 6.4 million jobs, according to a report by CBS News, with the unemployment at 3.9% as of December 2021. The rate dropped from 6.3% at the start of his presidency.

Looking forward into the president's second year in office, we can expect to see more regarding the infrastructure plan — a major pillar in Biden's 2020 presidential campaign.

In November 2021, Congress passed the \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill, even with Joe Manchin's staunch opposition to it.

If all goes well, the next five years will touch everything from bridges to roads, as well as new water and energy systems, cementing a major victory for Biden after a reactive presidency during his first year.

The U.S. is watching the president closely, so he must start delivering. The next three years may be his last.

STAFF
EDITORIAL

Sick days hit different

Recently West Virginian journalist, Tori Yorgey, was hit by a car live on air as she was covering a story about a water-main break. She proceeded in covering the story as she picked herself up, with no serious injuries, and repositioned the camera.

The ordeal brings journalists to a long-standing dilemma: where do we draw the line between prioritizing our own health and wellbeing, and maintaining responsibilities for our jobs?

Luckily for Yorgey, she was not seriously injured and was able to continue with the live report. However, if her injuries were more serious, should her job demand that she continues? Or is it more important then to cut the camera and seek medical attention?

As a society, we tend to brush off being sick with a cold or the flu; We muscle through it in order to report to work and continue through the motions. Usually only when it's dire do we take our one day off to either rest or see the doctor. This is a mindset that should be changed.

The United States is one of the only countries that does not have paid sick leave and instead has allotted sick days in which people can use for when they are feeling ill. However, the flaw is that we can never predict when we are ill, get in an accident or have a personal matter that would prevent us from reporting to work.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, "Currently, there are no federal legal requirements for paid sick leave. For companies subject to the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), the act does require unpaid sick leave."

In addition, for someone who finds themselves injured or in an accident and cannot report to work, usually they will have to file a claim to the insurance company in order to obtain compensation for the wages lost from inability to work. It is the responsibility of the individual instead of the employer.

That being said, we should either be allotted more sick days or implement a sick-leave procedure similar to that of other nations, such as the United Kingdom or other European countries.

According to gov.uk, employees are allowed time off work if they are ill in addition to obtaining a "sick note" from their doctor. Also, the employee can receive Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) during the period that they are ill if they are eligible.

"You can get £96.35 per week Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) if you're too ill to work. It's paid by your employer for up to 28 weeks," the website states.

Perhaps with a solution like this people will take the time that they need to recover from either an illness or injury without the worry and stress that is put upon them to 'muscle through' and continue working — just as Yorgey did during her live broadcast.

The geopolitical war rages on: Russia, Ukraine and NATO

MIA LUBRANI
staff columnist

There is a geopolitical war brewing on the border between Ukraine and Russia. The Russo-Ukrainian war has been an ongoing conflict in Europe since roughly 2014, when the southern Black Sea port territory of Crimea was annexed by Putin.

Lately, Russian troops and politics have been interfering in the sovereignty of their neighbor state. Ukraine joined the United Nations in 1945 as a state in the USSR. In the 1991 Soviet Union collapse, they announced they would stop following any laws of the USSR and became recognized as an independent state.

There is a general respect in international politics that states should not interfere with other countries, unless there is a break of international law that induces it.

Russia is a frequent violator of international law; They have been an aggressive nation that has a history of interference in Ukraine, dating back to the 2004 Orange Revolution.

The prior interference shows Putin is not afraid to break international norms and laws because he already has.

Putin wants more power in his political sphere to protect the Russian people. He signifies this Russian identity because the majority of people in eastern Ukraine speak Russian, according to the *Washington Post*.

Polls done in recent years showed a trend toward citizens

in eastern Ukraine wanting to join Russia, which only fueled Putin's desires, though this is a biased way to look at the issue. Citizens in eastern Ukraine have been plagued by active combat for eight years now; The endless threat of war has influenced their recent acceptance of the oppressive authoritarian Russian Federation.

Putin has been a bully for years, and they are tired.

The threat of Ukraine growing in influence, continuing to act as a democracy and joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) are all intimidating to Russia. This is yet another example of the ideological war between democracy and authoritarianism.

NATO acts as a pro-democratic, intergovernmental military alliance between 30 countries. *The Washington Post* writes, "The treaty states that if one nation is invaded or attacked by a third party, all nations in NATO will collectively mobilize in its defense."

Russia is demanding guarantees from NATO that Ukraine will not join and is already unhappy with NATO troops stationed in Poland, Estonia and Latvia.

NATO and President Joe Biden have confirmed Russia does not have the right to forbid induction, rightfully so. According to recent news, the U.S. has threatened economic sanctions if Russia continues interference; Russia still fears that their neighbor's membership into NATO will increase their power and footprint, bringing them further away from Russian influence.

sian influence.

In recent days, the continued escalation has been dominant in world news. The British government is tasked with the responsibility of intercepting Russian communications, according to the *New York Times*. *The Times* also said Russia was developing plans to install a pro-Russian leader in their capital city of Kyiv.

Putin had already chosen a candidate that would create instability and make decisions with bias to the Russian federation. The alarming news of a Pro-Kremlin puppet government does not surprise the international community because of the recent border conflict.

There are issues with these actions because it is not fair to Ukraine to have their potential for success tampered with by an oppressive nation. Putin has kept troops on the border since 2014, putting tremendous strain on their military and citizens living in active combat. For Putin to infringe on their democratic elections is immoral and illegal, according to the UN clause regarding non-interference in electoral processes. It is a blatant infringement of international law, and we can only hope that it does not work.

Russia has deployed nearly 127,000 troops to surround Ukraine's borders, with the threat of attack at any moment. Ukraine is in a high state of anxiety.

Because of the schemes to destabilize the government and tip the country into war, there was a meeting of political leaders on



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

Ukraine's growth as an independent, democratic nation is intimidating to Russia.

Jan. 22 to discuss the threat. It is against international law to oppress a country, interfere in others' governments' stability and infiltrate the sovereignty of another nation.

The meeting spoke darkly of Russia, and I think they have every right to fear their neighbor. On the surface, Putin may seem to want to control small portions of eastern Ukraine. But with his recent electoral sabotage attempt in their western capital, it is clear Putin wants to crush Ukraine and ruin their ability to govern. NATO interference must continue to help Ukraine preserve their democracy, but a war with Russia is not an action any country wants to experience.

Britain's influx of information comes at a time when they are trying to gain political influence. Britain has also sent military backup to Ukraine along with dispatching ministers to NATO countries under threat to attempt to communicate directly with Russia.

Since 2020, a political scan-

dal about Covid precaution has threatened Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson's power. Some people see Johnson's exposure of Russia and assertive military actions as a way to divert attention from his past.

I think this could be a possibility of one of his motives, but I also believe someone needs to stand up to Putin. I am hoping Putin stops his sabotage and border conflict, but his pattern of attempting to expand his sphere of power since 2014 is leading me to believe that is not likely.

On a final note, the recent Russian infiltration into Ukraine has been a plot to get the West, or specifically the U.S., to pay attention to Russia. The U.S. has been trying to focus on China, which is its most competitive rival in technology, security, GDP and other comparative factors. There may even be a connection between China's recent attempts at growth and Russia's plot to drive attention toward their involvement in eastern Ukraine.

The Steel City can learn from the Queen City: Putting love into Pittsburgh

PETER BOETTGER
staff columnist

In April of 2020, my dad decided to move us out of my childhood home in Wilmington, Del., to Charlotte, N.C.. While I was upset about moving out of the house I grew up in, after spending time in Charlotte, I began to love the place.

Then, I moved to Pittsburgh for college and while I love Pittsburgh, compared to Charlotte, this city can improve.

It's clear that Pittsburgh isn't a growing city like Charlotte. The 2020 U.S. Census showed that the population of Pittsburgh decreased from 305,704 to 302,971. From public transit, to the simple cost of living, the Steel City can learn from a lot of places, including the Queen City.

As for public transportation, in Charlotte, the light rail line — called The Lynx or The Blue Line — is a free public transportation system, no matter the destination or location.

The Pittsburgh metro, or the T, on the other hand, is only free for Downtown and North Side travel, despite having other stops around the region.

According to the American Public Transportation Association quarterly report, the monthly average of Charlotteans that used the Lynx in the 3rd Quarter of 2021 was 2,190. But it's not only Charlotte; transit is also completely free in Salt Lake City and the average during the quarter there was 5,886. The T averaged only 1,393. But free transit may come at a cost, Charlottean, and Utahns pay more than Yinzers in both income and sales tax.

While cost could be a factor, another way to increase usage of the T in Pittsburgh is expanding the system east toward the Bluff, Oakland and South Side. Unlike Charlotte, Pittsburgh is the home of multiple colleges, so having a free rail line that can move students between the aforementioned locations would be a big hit. Instead of having to

walk, Uber or pay for a car and its extra expenditures, students could just take the train.

Not only is this about the cost of living, but it is about the less adequate quality of life in Pittsburgh compared to other fast-growing communities.

According to the 2020 US Census, Pittsburgh has a population of approximately 300,000 people, but it has the highest poverty rate, at 20.5% of the city population living under the poverty line. Charlotte has a population just under 900,000, and the second-lowest poverty rate at 12.8%. Charlotte is behind Seattle, a city with a population of 700,000, which has a poverty rate of 11%.

What Charlotte has done to decrease the amount of poverty is invest in the community through their education system and public housing. As for the cost of living, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in the fourth quarter of 2021, Pittsburgh spends \$4,000 more than

the American average in housing expenditures alone. Meanwhile, Charlotte spends \$2,000 less than the American average.

While Pittsburgh still has its charm, there's no doubt that the city is losing its population and therefore a slowly dwindling local economy. But to change that, we have to look to other growing communities to see what they've done to bring

people in, and keep them in an active and vibrant community that's worth staying in.

Whether it's free public transit, investing more into public housing, constructing affordable housing that won't hurt the budgets of young workers or changing the rent of people in poor neighborhoods, Pittsburgh needs work, despite how great this city is.



ZOE STRATOS | OPINIONS EDITOR

Of Pittsburgh's approximate population of 300,000 people, 20.5% of the city population is living under the poverty line.

Jared Box Project services local children's hospitals



NICHOLAS ZOTOS | STAFF WRITER
CEL members hosted a Service Sunday in the NiteSpot to help create Jared Boxes filled with toys and games for patients at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

NICHOLAS ZOTOS
staff writer

It is officially a new year on the Bluff and Duquesne students have begun volunteering again on campus.

This much was evident as students packed into the NiteSpot last Wednesday, Jan. 19, eager to partake in the Consistent Ethic of Life (CEL) group's sponsored event known as the Jared Box Project.

The official Jared Box website provides a brief history on the project's beginnings.

The Jared Box Project started in 2001 with the children of Our Lady of Victory School in State College, Pa. when they set out to honor their young classmate Jared McMullen who died of a brain tumor at just 5 years old.

McMullen would carry a backpack of toys and games throughout doctors' ap-

pointments. He was known for sharing his toys and inviting others to play games with him, the website said.

McMullen's classmates began their initiative for local Geisinger Janet Weis Children's Hospital. Since then, nearly 1 million Jared Boxes have been delivered across the U.S.

According to the official Jared Box website, each box is filled with "small gifts, toys, games, crayons, coloring books and fun activities."

"These boxes are, in turn, given to children in a hospital to provide a fun diversion," the website said.

Josalynn Rightnour, president of CEL, led the project and encouraged others to join.

"This event is consistent with the ethics of our club, which promotes education and advocacy service. We are very excited to

partake in this project and help children who are currently in the hospital" Rightnour said.

CEL made 25 boxes which they will distribute to kids in UPMC Mercy Hospital's emergency room next week.

Each box was equipped with numerous objects including stickers, toys and even a personal note written by the volunteers.

The intent is that these objects will captivate children while in the hospital. Each toy serves as not only a distraction from boredom, but as comfort for those who may undergo stressful procedures.

The service event had more than 20 volunteers including members from Gamma Epsilon Epsilon, a service sorority on campus.

One of the sororities members, Abby Burke, spoke warmly about the project.

"This is a great opportunity to help kids, and we are excited to have so many people from our sorority attend," Burke said. "It truly is so rewarding when you help younger people."

Many individuals shared Burke's sentiment as the event attracted students from across the Bluff.

One of CEL's members, Hannah Valenty, said, "Our club president finds really good opportunities to protect all life, especially for kids. I think this event brightens kids' days in the darkness of winter."

The Jared Box Project is one of the many service projects scheduled for this semester. In fact, the NiteSpot hosts a service project almost every Sunday.

In the past, these events have included making blankets, creating care packages and other initiatives.

Founder's Week celebrates Spiritans 150 year of ministry

ZACHARY PETROFF
staff writer

Duquesne University of the Holy Spirit will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of Spiritans in the U.S. The annual celebration known as Founder's Week, kicks off Monday, January 31st and concludes Friday, Feb. 4.

For those unfamiliar with the Spiritans or their history, the Congregation of the Holy Spirit is a religious congregation of the Catholic Church. Founded in 1703 by Claude-Francois Poullart des Places under the patronage of Mary, the Spiritans set out to create an environment to support students on their way to the priesthood and to help the poor.

As of today, Duquesne University is the only Spiritan institution of higher education in the world.

The Spiritans are a unique order of the Catholic Church as they are focused on serving the needs of the least fortunate, often through service ethnography. Reverend Bill Christy, Director of Campus Ministry and University Chaplain, said that he thinks that the focus on serving is one of the essential calling cards of the Spiritan mission.

"When we come the Spirit has preceded us, so learning the language, learning the culture, learning where God has been present in these peoples' lives is very important," Christy said.

This type of servitude allows Spiritans to immerse themselves in the commu-

nity which provides a particular insight and growth for the Spiritan. The 150-year event is a celebration of the work that the Spiritans have accomplished along with an appreciation of the history of the Spiritans and Duquesne University.

The history of this religious order is very important to the current Spiritans' message.

"By sharing that history, it allows [the student body] to have faith in the past," Christy said, "They'll have hope in the future, and if they have hope in the future, then they can reach out to each other in love right now."

The theme for Founders' Week, "Led by the Spirit Where the Need is Greatest," is tied closely to the third Spiritan charism that emphasizes the evangelization of the poor. Unlike themes in the past, this year's Founders Week mirrors the mission of the Spiritan tradition.

Those looking to contribute can visit one of the daily Founder's Week events and donate granola bars, fruit cups, small individual bags of chips or small individual bags of cookies. All the items will be donated to Red Door, a ministry for the homeless in Downtown Pittsburgh.

One of the highlights for this year's Founder's Week will be the return of the "Interview and Lunch with a Spiritan." On Thursday, Feb. 3, participants will be able to hear from the U.S. Provincial Father and former director of campus ministry Father

Don McEachin.

The week-long celebration will also include activities such as making Mason Jar Lights, a feast on Feast Day and an "Evening of Flights" where attendees can enjoy a flight of beers and hors d'oeuvres while they speak with the Spiritans about their work at home and abroad.

Dr. Luci-Jo Dimaggio, Director of Mission Animation, is looking forward to the return of in-person activities and the revival of the "Lunch with a Spiritan" event.

"In its essence it's a celebratory week and I would love for people to come and just relax a bit, learn something, have some good food - have a meal on us and celebrate who we are as a university," Dimaggio said.

Information and registration for the events can be found on Duquesne website



COURTESY OF SPIRITAN CAMPUS MINISTRIES

Founder's Week will celebrate an especially significant year for the Spiritan U.S. Congregation of the Holy Spirit.

Best-selling local author Marie Benedict releases new book

EMMA POLEN
features editor

Pittsburgh-born author Heather Marie Terrell, also known by her pen name Marie Benedict, released her newest novel, "Her Hidden Genius," on Tuesday.

According to Benedict's author website, "Her Hidden Genius" is "about the brilliant British scientist Rosalind Franklin who discovered the structure of DNA but whose research was used without her permission by Crick and Watson to win the Nobel Prize."

"Marie Benedict's powerful new novel shines a light on a woman who sacrificed her life to discover the nature of our very DNA, a woman whose world-changing contributions were hidden by the men around her but whose relentless drive advanced our understanding of humankind," the site said.

Benedict herself is a strong woman in her career field. She worked as a lawyer for over ten years, and now she has also become successful for writing a number of best-selling works.

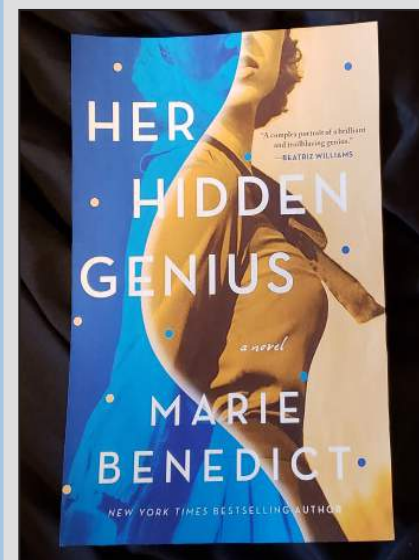
"Her Hidden Genius" is not Benedict's first story about an overlooked woman from history.

Benedict is known for her historical fictions featuring smart, strong-willed female characters. Other favorites by Benedict include "The Other Einstein," "The Only Woman in the Room" and New York Times' bestselling "The Mystery of Mrs. Christie."

True to her Pittsburgh heritage, Benedict also published "Carnegie's Maid," which tells the story of a woman who possibly influenced Andrew Carnegie's philanthropy.

Benedict will be coming to the area on-tour next month.

Literary fans can visit Benedict at Riverstone Bookstore, McCandless Crossing, on Feb. 18, at 7 p.m.



ANDREW CUMMINGS | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Marie Benedict released "Her Hidden Genius" on Tuesday, Jan. 25.

The Duquesne Duke

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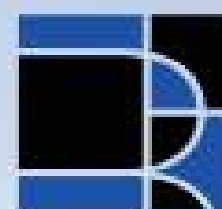
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