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9/11 film sparks conversation

MARY LIZ FLAVIN
news editor

As the dust settled, many responders, citizens and workers helped to mend the city of New York on 9/11 by cleaning and moving rubble over a span of many months. However, a cost they didn't see were the many health issues due to the polluted air and contaminated work environments.

The movie, *9/11 Unsettled Dust* covered these issues and took a deep dive into individual stories as well as the larger, underlying issue at hand.

Tuesday Feb. 8, the Department of Modern Languages and Literature kicked off their 15th Annual Human Rights Film Series with the movie *9/11 Unsettled Dust*. The film series consists of various movies that are meant to spark discussion about difficult issues of today's world.

In addition to the films, a guest speaker will be present to talk about the specific topics covered in the designated film.

9/11 Unsettled Dust was directed by Liz Katzman, and it examines the stories of those who were affected by the toxic conditions and public health failures after 9/11 occurred. Many workers weren't given masks or hazmat suits while working at ground zero and the World Trade Center. For months responders, as well as residents were affected by the poor air quality and other varying conditions caused by the events on 9/11.

Jensan Bauman, a student at Duquesne, said the film tackled important issues.

"I enjoyed the movie as it depicted information we don't normally talk about," Bauman said.

The film also discusses the actions of former EPA Admin-
FILM SERIES PAGE 2

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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BSU kicks off Black History Month with karaoke

ALICIA DYE
staff writer

Laughter filled the room as students sang a variety of songs from Beyoncé's "Sweet Dreams" to "Something to Dance For / TTYLXOX Mash Up" by Zendaya and Bella Thorne during Black Student Union's Karaoke night on Monday Feb. 7.

Karaoke night marked the second event of many this month, with the first event being Meet the Divine 9, which was sponsored by Black Greek Council. Karaoke night was sponsored by Black Student Union.

Many lighthearted jokes were shared amongst the students, including some students joking about having a "Rap Battle Freestyle".

Taylor Hopkins, president of Black Student Union, said that while most people look to the past for Black History Month, she and other officers of BSU, along with leaders of other clubs on campus, such as Ebony Women, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and others wanted to focus on happiness and joy for Black students.

"We wanted to capitalize on Black joy and having a good time," Hopkins said.

There are plenty of events going on throughout the Month that students can attend, all hosted by The Center for Excellence in Diversity and Student Inclusion and sponsored by various clubs on campus, including BSU, Ebony Women, Black Law Students Association and more.

One student organization



ALICIA DYE | STAFF WRITER

Students gathered in the Africa Room to participate in a fun karaoke night. Songs such as "Sweet Dreams" by Beyoncé and "Something to Dance For/ TTYLXOX Mash Up" by Zendaya and Bella Thorne were featured during the event.

starting back up is Collegiate 100, better known as C100. C100 is an organization that does programming to provide emotional and educational support to youth of the area. The current acting president, Christian Bernard, hopes to bring the organization back to its full force.

"Covid really shut us down. The last time we were active was Spring 2020," Bernard said.

Bernard fell in love with C100 when he was a freshmen and wants other students to experience what it is like helping those within a community.

C100 has their first meeting of the semester Thursday Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. in Student Union 119.

Although C100 isn't sponsoring events this month, Bernard really encourages any student

who can attend the events to go.

"Learn as much as you can about being an ally. It's so important to know where people come from and their cultures," Bernard said.

Planning these events takes time, and can be hard, according to Hopkins.

"Everything starts out as just an idea, and then we try to bring it to life. We ask ourselves 'How are we going to make this happen?'" Hopkins said.

Planning all these events aren't just done by the leadership of the clubs, as Anthony Kane, Director of Diversity and Inclusion, helps the clubs with planning and organization.

"Tone is instrumental to our planning. He helps us immensely," Hopkins said.

There are many other events happening this month. Some events include a Valentine's Day Flower Giveaway on Feb. 14, sponsored by Omicron Psi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in the Student Union at 12 p.m.; Black Hair Day on Feb. 15, which will be presented by Alydia Thomas, sponsored by Ebony Women at 6 p.m. in the Towers Multipurpose Room.

There is also a Black Mental Health Matters event on Feb. 17 in Union 302, presented by Quincy Stephenson and Sara Kyles-Royster. Later that same night is a Game Night event in the Union Nitespot from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m.

"I really want people to go to

these events and have fun, meet new people and most importantly, to participate," Bernard said.

Toward the end of the month, there is a Black Love Day Formal Feb. 22 in the Power Center Ballroom from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.. There will also be a Black History Month dinner hosted at Hogan Dining Hall Feb. 24, starting at 4 p.m.

Hopkins recommends that if students can only go to one event, come to the Black Love Day formal, a first time event for Duquesne University.

"It's the one I'm most excited for. The main point is to showcase Black excellence and to honor those in our community," Hopkins said.

Rounding out the Black History Month events is a Black Cultures Impact on Science panel discussion led by Dr. Andre Samuel starting at 2 p.m. Feb. 28 on Zoom. The final event is a Black Culture movie night, also on Feb. 28 at 8 p.m. in Bayer Pappert Lecture Hall.

"We want Black students to embrace themselves and for nonblack people to be open minded as they attend these events," Hopkins said.

Students can find the full list of events on campus link and at <http://duq.edu/bhm>. Students can also follow the Center for Excellence in Diversity and Student Inclusion's instagram, thecenterduq, for updates on these events.



ALICIA DYE | STAFF WRITER

More events are coming up this month such as Valentine Day Flower Giveaway, Black Hair Day, Game Night, Hip Hop Aerobics and many more.

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15th Annual Human Rights Film Series showcases current issues

FILM SERIES PAGE 1

istrator Christine Whitman and many other government officials and their stance throughout the years on health and safety. Originally, Whitman stated in 2007 that the air was safe and those who were working at ground zero should continue to do so.

Throughout the documentary, it was clear that as more and more stories came out about those with newly developed respiratory issues and cancer, as well as a rise in deaths associated with these ailments, there was a bigger issue at hand.

Speaker Jay D. Aronson, founder and director of the Center for Human Rights Science at Carnegie Mellon University, has dealt with research examining the interactions of science, technology, law, media and human rights.

"Watching this I couldn't help but think of the victims and the health effects they had developed. One thing that struck me was the core mission of city leaders was for American capitalism to grind again, making money was one of the more important issues," Aronson said.

Aronson points out that one of the goals of the city leaders was to make sure the economy was up and running again. However, by making the economy a priority it caused people harm as well.

Years later, the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act was created to insure health monitoring and aid to first responders, volunteers and sur-



MARY LIZ FLAVIN | NEWS EDITOR

All movies will be featured in either room 104 or 105, located at the bottom of College Hall, at 7 p.m. Students can check dates of films on Campus Link.

vivors of the Sept. 11 attacks. It was named after James Zadroga, a New York City Police Department officer who died of a respiratory disease that he got through his rescue and recovery operations at the World Trade Center.

Mark Frisch, associate professor in the Department of Modern

Languages and Literature, wants students to be aware of issues that bring these films to light.

"Many of these things go behind our backs, it's important for students to be aware of what some of the problems are. We can start to eliminate them if we really apply ourselves," Frisch said.

The other films that will be

shown throughout the duration of this month are *The Shadow of Gold*, *Building the American Dream* and *Invisible Hands*. Three movies that highlight issues such as diamond mining and precious metals, a look into the lives of immigrants and the exposing of child labor.

Pre-historic creatures come to life at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center



COURTESY OF JURASSIC QUEST MEDIA ASSETS

Bring a valentine to this unique experience. It's a dino-mite event for all to see.

ZOE STRATOS
opinions editor

Something prehistoric is coming to Pittsburgh this weekend, as the Jurassic Quest dinosaur show rears its horns at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center.

Jurassic Quest started out as a traveling show in 2013, growing over the years into the largest dinosaur show in North America. Now, they send out three traveling shows, each taking with them 16 trucks jam-packed with giant dinosaur replicas from the different prehistoric eras.

Marty Hoffman, known as Park Ranger Marty on the Jurassic Quest team, joined Jurassic Quest as a self-proclaimed major dinosaur fan and nerd. At each show, he answers questions texted to the "Dino 411" line.

"We pride ourselves on being not only fun, but educational, so if you're a person that likes dinosaurs — and let's face it, deep inside we all like dinosaurs — there's a lot of things to still learn about them," Hoffman said. "A lot of the time the answers to the questions are 'we

don't have that information yet,' and that's one of the exciting things about paleontology."

Upon entering the convention center, event goers will be able to walk through the archway and become immersed in a world of giant dinosaurs — more than 80 scientifically accurate ones at the Pittsburgh event.

"If you're having a bad day there, you can just go to the arches and watch kids walk through. You watch their eyes light up and their jaws drop and they see their first dinosaurs — then you're going to have a good day. No matter how you were feeling that morning, as soon as you watch those kids it's a great day," Hoffman said.

Besides the stunning and accurate replicas, Jurassic Quest provides a variety of other activities for every age: from baby dinosaur meet and greets, to dinosaur rides, to themed bounce houses to fossil stations.

While college students may not be able to ride a dinosaur or bounce around in the bounce houses, the Jurassic Quest fossil exhibit area is great for students to learn and get an in-depth view of our prehistoric counterparts. And featured in

the oceans exhibit is a 50 foot long Megalodon replica.

New to Jurassic Quest is its addition of "the quest," Hoffman mentioned, in which the family can upgrade their experience and go on an interactive scavenger hunt style adventure during the event.

The event will be in the city from Feb. 11-13, with two-hour time slot tickets available on the Jurassic Quest website. Standard adult tickets cost \$26 including fees. Upgraded tickets are also available, with "dinosaur surprises" included in the bundle.



COURTESY OF JURASSIC QUEST MEDIA ASSETS

The Jurassic Quest dinosaur show is an exciting event for kids and grown ups alike. This exciting event features dinosaurs of all shapes, colors and sizes

Sweet Streaming Open Mic Night filled with performances, insights and more

ZACHARY PETROFF
staff writer

On Thursday, Feb 10 DSTV and WDSR are collaborating to present the Sweet Streaming Open Mic Night.

Unlike a traditional open mic night, this combined effort is showcasing not only the talent of the performers but the cooperation of Duquesne TV and Duquesne Radio. This is the first open mic night that will take place in the broadcast center. There will be a viewing area dedicated to the live stream.

This open mic night is being sponsored by a variety of organizations including Mic Drop A Capella, WDSR and Parkhurst

Dining, who will be providing free refreshments for the event. Mary Flavin will be the Master of Ceremonies.

Michela Hall, general manager of DSTV, recognizes this event is the perfect outlet for all those involved to practice their craft and utilize the fun and creative experience as a learning tool.

"It is like trying a new show on Netflix. It's a good social opportunity to meet other people down in the nightspot. It is a good opportunity to see what you would be capable of doing in the broadcast center. It is an active as well as passive thinking opportunity," Hall said.

Music education students,



COURTESY OF DONALD MAUE

DSTV and WDSR are collaborating to produce Sweet Streaming Open Mic Night. Students can watch their classmates perform either in person or via live stream. Duets, solo acts and groups will be performing during this event.



COURTESY OF DONALD MAUE

This open mic night will be the first to take place in the new broadcast center.

Kate Denman and Dylan Sleasman, will be performing "Flower," an original song written by Denman. Sleasman will play acoustic guitar while Denman will be the main vocalist as well as playing the piano. The duo's unique sound blends Denman's introspective lyrics with Sleasman's calculated jazz sound.

"I sort of bring my jazz influence to the table, and she has very good pop songwriting skills that we've combined together. You get something really unique and different from

what other people are putting out right now," Sleasman said.

Amongst the performers, Duquesne's premiere "Mic Drop A Cappella" group will be featured.

The fitting theme for the night "sweet streaming" illustrates not only the upcoming romantic holiday but the ability for audience members to stream the performances live on WDSR radio and DSTV YouTube.

Those looking to attend in person should make their way to the Nitespot Movie Room in

the Union at 9 p.m.

Those looking to showcase their talent have until noon on Feb 10 to sign up. Sign up is available on the Qualtrics survey link found on DSTV's Twitter and Instagram page.

Whether it is in the Nitespot or cozier up watching the livestream in the dorms, this Thursday night grab a friend, a significant other or a person you would like to spend more time with and have your fellow students' performances be the guide to Cupid's arrow.

Red Dress Gala postponed

ISABELLA ABBOTT
staff writer

The Red Dress Gala, Alpha Phi's main philanthropy event, will be postponed until the first weekend in April.

The annual event involves the sorority sisters putting on their best red dresses and raising money for The Alpha Phi Foundation, the only philanthropy named after a sorority on campus.

As women, Alpha Phi's increase awareness for women's cardiac care by donating the funds raised to foundations, including the American Heart Association. And although the event didn't occur last year due to Covid-19 restrictions, they are excited to see how much money they can raise this April.

With heart disease killing every one in four women, the sorority strives to educate people on women's number one killer, and the gala is the perfect way to do just that.

By wearing red dresses, the sisters are signifying heart health and showing that they stand by those affected by it.

Junior nursing student and president of Alpha Phi, Jordan Howell, discussed how heart health affects almost everyone in one aspect or another and why the sisters participate in the event.

"For us, we're raising money for our sisters, mothers, grandmothers, and all women affected by this horrible disease," Howell said.

The majority of the money raised is from members contributing basket items to be auctioned off during the event which will be held this year at the Rivers Club, located at 301 Grant St Suite 411, Pittsburgh, PA.

Friends, families and alumni are invited to enjoy elegant food, fun, and a silent auction at the formal venue where wearing red is encouraged but not forced.

Duquesne Alpha Phi has raised thousands of dollars for their philanthropy and if this is a condition you stand by, make sure to join the sisters at their Red Dress Gala event to help promote women's heart health.

For more information visit <https://duq.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/alphaphi>
Follow Alpha Phi on instagram @duqalphaphi
Facebook @<https://www.facebook.com/duqalphaphi>

POLICE BRIEFS

Fri. Feb. 4- Duquesne police responded to a call regarding an intoxicated student in Duquesne Towers. The student was conscious upon arrival, and will be referred to the Office of Student conduct.

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.

COVID-19

NUMBERS

SCAN HERE FOR COVID-19 DATA



ALCOHOL AMNESTY IN PENNSYLVANIA

A message brought to you by DU Cares & the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board

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Good people drink underage:
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(*Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, Act 80 of 2018, 6308 crimes code, summary 6301.1 safe harbor for violation of section 6308 (A).)

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Penguins in position for another playoff run

BENJAMIN GOTTSCHALK
staff writer

After a mediocre start to the season, the Pittsburgh Penguins used December and January to find their footing, jumping from middle of the pack to playoff hopeful.

This was on full display during a 19-game stretch from Dec. 4 to Jan. 25 in which the Penguins won 17 of those 19 games. Contained within this stretch was a 10-game winning streak from Dec. 4 to Jan. 6, which is tied for

ing during overtime). In the final game before the break, Pittsburgh held a 3-2 lead late into the second period, but allowed the Washington Capitals to tie the game and eventually win it in overtime.

But the same Penguins that couldn't hold a lead against Washington bounced back on Tuesday in Boston, erasing a 2-0 deficit with four unanswered goals to snap their losing streak and best the Boston Bruins.

Despite a number of injuries and Covid-19 cases at this point in the season, the Penguins

these two teams, but will get three cracks at the Hurricanes and four games against the Rangers in the back half of the season. These are destined to be games with massive playoff implications in the Eastern Conference.

Left-winger Jake Guentzel has taken the NHL by storm this season, becoming one of the league's top goal producers. He currently leads the Penguins in both goals (23) and points (48). Guentzel was selected as an NHL All-Star, where he represented both the Penguins and the Metropolitan Division in Las Vegas.

Arguably playing some of the best hockey of his career this season, defenseman Kris Letang has played an enormous role in the Penguins' success this year. Lately, he has reduced the mistakes made on the ice (such as pinches leading to odd-man breaks), and the few he made did not have drastic consequences.

From a statistical standpoint, Letang leads the team with 36 assists and a plus-minus rating of 16. At the defensive end, Letang has racked up 79 blocked shots and 94 hits.

Sidney Crosby seems to be back near 100% after his wrist surgery in late August. The three-time Stanley Cup champion appears to be turning on the jets as the Stanley Cup Playoffs draw closer and closer.

Despite questions of his health upon his delayed return at the start of the season, Crosby still ranks second on the team in assists (28) and tied for second in points (41). Pittsburgh's captain also recorded his 499th-career goal in Tuesday's win and is bound to reach the 500-goal milestone in a matter of games.

This success was mostly achieved in the absence of Evgeni Malkin, who was out of the lineup until Jan. 11 following offseason knee surgery. Malkin recorded 13 points in 12 games following his return, but was placed in the NHL's Covid protocol on Monday.

In order to fill the gap left by Malkin

(both then and now), the Penguins have and will lean on dependable forwards such as Bryan Rust (34 points in 25 games), Evan Rodrigues (33 points in 47 games) and Jeff Carter (26 points in 41 games).

Pittsburgh has also looked to offseason acquisitions like forwards Danton Heinen (20 points in 41 games) and Brock McGinn (16 points in 44 games) to help add scoring skill to the group of bottom-six forwards.

That depth will be challenged by the loss of Teddy Blueger. Blueger, a regular in the bottom six who registered 17 points in 40 games, broke his jaw on Jan. 23 against the Winnipeg Jets and was ruled out for six to eight weeks.

Typically, he's made his presence known as a two-way player, acting as a pest against opposing players while also winning 54.8% of his faceoffs, good for fourth-best on the team.

None of this success means anything, however, if the Penguins can't rely on goaltender Tristan Jarry come postseason time. After a less-than-stellar performance last postseason against the New York Islanders, Jarry seems to have become a much more confident and reliable goalie. Jarry has won 24 games this season (with three shutouts). He also represented the Penguins during the NHL All-Star Game.

The back half of the schedule won't be easy for Pittsburgh. According to Power Rankings Guru, the team has the league's fifth-hardest remaining schedule. With 35 games left (17 against divisional opponents), the Penguins are currently in prime position to make it back to the Stanley Cup Playoffs. The Penguins have made the postseason in 15 consecutive seasons, having not missed since the 2005-2006 campaign.

With a plethora of great matchups for Pittsburgh in the second half, the rest of the season should be even more exhilarating, electrifying and explosive than it's been to this point.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Jake Guentzel, who has played in 41 of Pittsburgh's 47 games this season, is leading the team in both goals (23) and points (48). Guentzel has now scored 20-plus goals in each of his five-full NHL seasons.

the fifth-longest streak in franchise history.

A stretch of four games prior to the National Hockey League's All-Star Weekend saw the Penguins start to slip, dropping all four games (with three of the losses com-

have a 28-11-8 record (64 points) and currently sit in third place in the Metropolitan Division, tied with the New York Rangers and just a point back of the Carolina Hurricanes.

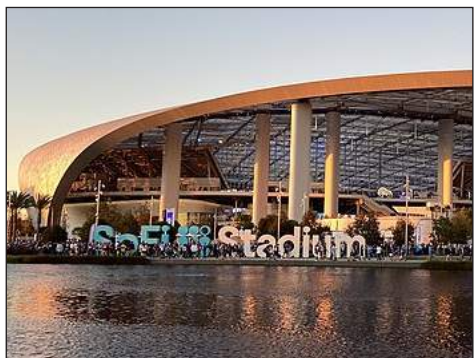
The Penguins have not yet played either of

Bengals, Rams prepare for Super Bowl clash

SEAN O'DONNELL
staff writer

In a game that features two teams with drastically different paths, the Cincinnati Bengals and Los Angeles Rams will face off at SoFi Stadium — the Rams' home stadium — in Super Bowl LVI on Sunday evening.

A relevant storyline in the game, at least for Pittsburghers, is the fact that Aaron Donald and Tyler Boyd — former college teammates at the University of Pittsburgh in 2013 — will square off against one another. Donald is from



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, Calif., will serve as the home of Super Bowl LVI on Sunday evening.

nearby Penn Hills, Pa., while Boyd hails from Clairton, Pa.

For the Bengals, led by second-year quarterback Joe Burrow, the script has finally been flipped. Prior to this year, Cincinnati had not won a postseason game since 1990 and hadn't been to a Super Bowl since 1989.

Cincinnati was heavily doubted, even before the season started. In an AFC North division that returned three postseason teams from 2020, the outlook for the Bengals was bleak.

They managed to secure the AFC North crown at 10-7 and win three postseason games in as many weeks during their run. Cincinnati has adopted an "underdog" mentality.

That underdog narrative was on full display in the AFC Championship Game, when the Bengals trailed the Kansas City Chiefs 21-3 at Kansas City's Arrowhead Stadium. Cincinnati found a way to lock in and limit the Chiefs to just one field goal the rest of the way, ultimately winning 27-24 in overtime.

After years of frustration, the franchise will look to win its first-ever Lombardi Trophy.

On the Rams' side of things, success has become an expectation.

Los Angeles has made the postseason in four of the last five seasons, making it as far as the Super Bowl in February 2019, where it lost to

the New England Patriots.

At the end of last season, the Rams decided a change was in order. They swung a franchise-altering trade, acquiring quarterback Matthew Stafford from the Detroit Lions. In 12 years in Detroit, Stafford had regular-season success but was never able to win a postseason game.

After a 7-1 start to the season, the Rams failed to win a game in November. However, the team responded to win five-straight games before falling to the San Francisco 49ers in the final regular-season game.

Los Angeles still managed to secure the NFC West crown. It went on to handle the Arizona Cardinals and upset the Tampa Bay Buccaneers before a rematch with the 49ers in the NFC Championship Game.

Despite trailing 17-7, Los Angeles responded, scoring 13 unanswered points en route to a 20-17 comeback victory.

For Cincinnati to win, it will have to depend on the connection between Burrow and rookie wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase. The two won a college football national title together while at LSU in 2020 and reunited after a year apart.

Burrow, who tore his ACL and MCL in November 2020, bounced back strong. He finished the regular season with 4,611 passing yards and 34 touchdowns. He isn't just throw-

ing for a lot of yards; he's doing it with great accuracy. Burrow finished the regular season as the league's completion-percentage leader among qualifying quarterbacks (70.4%).

The connection between Burrow and Chase didn't miss a beat. Chase finished the regular season with 81 catches, 1,455 yards and 13 touchdowns. In three postseason games, Chase has hauled in an additional 279 yards. Keep an eye on this connection.

On Los Angeles' side of things, it has its own bond between quarterback and star wide receiver. Stafford, who finished the regular season with almost 4,900 passing yards and 41 touchdowns, can rely heavily on Cooper Kupp. The receiver led the league in catches (145), receiving yards (1,947) and touchdowns (16) during the regular season.

That connection hasn't stopped in the postseason. In three games, Kupp has caught 25 passes for 386 yards and four touchdowns. In the Rams' win over Tampa Bay, the two connected for a 44-yard completion with just seconds left that was directly followed by a game-ending field goal. If Los Angeles is going to win, expect to see a heavy dose of Kupp.

In a game abundant with storylines, this contest will cap off what's been an unforgettable regular season and postseason for the league.

WBB defeated by GW in offensive struggle

BRENTARO YAMANE

layout editor

One obstacle that the Duquesne's women's basketball team has continued to try to overcome is maintaining a lead. Going into Wednesday night's game against George Washington, the Dukes had lost seven games by two possessions or fewer.

Desperate for an Atlantic 10 Conference victory, the Colonials (who entered the game 0-8 in conference play) battled

ington's victory was forcing Duquesne to take many contested shots, something Head Coach Dan Burt addressed following the loss.

"Their ability to rebound the ball and play with great effort forced us to play the way that they wanted to make the game," Burt said. "They were very physical with us off the ball. They did a very good job of rebounding the ball.

"And we got a lot of shots that we wanted for the ball to go in the basket. When you

by a three-pointer from Precious Johnson with 51 seconds left, to take the momentum into halftime, although George Washington still held the lead at 21-20.

The Dukes carried that momentum throughout the third quarter, a frame capped off by a buzzer-beating three-pointer from Tess Myers to put Duquesne's lead at five points (37-32), while simultaneously bringing many in the crowd to their feet. It could've been a game-changing play. For George Washington, if it wanted to win its first A-10 game of the season, they'd have to be physical and fight for the win in the final quarter.

With 1:34 left in the game, Mayowa Taiwo, who scored a game-high 15 points, made a layup to give the Colonials a 43-42 lead that they never surrendered. Down the stretch, George Washington made seven of its eight free-throw attempts. Taylor Webster missed the last of those attempts with about one second to go, forcing Duquesne's Amaya Hamilton to rebound the ball and chuck a half-court shot that wound up nowhere close to the hoop.

Burt was proud of his team's defensive effort, but knows that they need to score more in order to win.

"I thought our kids exhibited a pretty good defensive effort overall," Burt said. "But on offense, we needed to punch back instead of settling for contested jump shots. They were allowing us to shoot 15-footers, the mid-range was wide. And if it's not falling, the first couple times, drive to get to the basket. And we didn't do that."

Libby Bazalak scored a team-high 13 points in the game and was one rebound shy of a double-double, while Megan McConnell contributed seven points and forced eight steals. The Dukes were also able to score 24 points off turnovers, and

16 of the team's points came off the bench.

The Dukes have five more regular-season games before the A-10 tournament starts in the first week of March, the next of which will be a road contest against Massachusetts on Sunday.

The Dukes have lost three of their last four contests against the Minutemen, but have won 11 of 14 games against Massachusetts in a stretch that dates back to Feb. 20, 2008. "We've played with everybody to the final bell," Burt said. "We just haven't come up with enough W's. And it's not something that any of us here are used to. We are game planning and trying to find a way every day for countless hours.

"And I know that our kids have continued to have incredibly high spirits in positive spirits. They continue to come in on their own, and they continue to work out really, really hard."



BRENTARO YAMANE | LAYOUT EDITOR

Duquesne's Libby Bazalak is guarded by George Washington's Nya Lok during Wednesday's game at the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse. In 38 minutes of action, Bazalak recorded 13 points and nine rebounds.

until the very end and shocked Duquesne with a 50-48 victory at the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse.

In the game, the Dukes shot 14-of-59 (23.7%) from the field and made only 13 of 20 free throws. One key to George Wash-

shoot 23% from the field, and you shoot 25% from the three-point line, and only 65% from the free throw line, you're not giving yourself many chances to win."

Duquesne used a 5-0 run in the final 1:28 of the second quarter, highlighted



BRENTARO YAMANE | LAYOUT EDITOR

Head Coach Dan Burt looks on during Wednesday night's two-point loss to George Washington.

MBB's losing streak extended to eight

LUKE HENNE

sports editor

Following the Duquesne men's basketball team's 17-point home loss against Richmond on Feb. 1, Head Coach Keith Dambrot was very candid in his thoughts.

"I thought we were better than this," Dambrot said after the defeat. "Honestly, I really did."

In the two games since that loss, which was the Dukes' third loss by 15-plus points during what became a six-game losing streak, the results have remained the same.

After losses to VCU on Saturday and Dayton on Wednesday, Duquesne now finds itself in the midst of an eight-game losing streak. The skid is the longest the program has endured since losing 11 games in a row between Dec. 22, 2012, and Feb. 9, 2013.

At the Siegel Center in Richmond, Va., on Saturday, Duquesne controlled much of the first half, taking a 30-29 lead into halftime. It was the first time the Dukes led at halftime since Jan. 12, when they led Fordham 40-33 at the break before losing 72-71 in a game that started the still-active losing streak.

The Dukes held a second-half lead as

large as five points during Saturday's game, but the Rams found their way back into the game and, ultimately, found a way to defeat Duquesne 71-62.

It was VCU's eighth victory against Duquesne in nine tries since joining the Atlantic 10 Conference prior to the 2012-2013 season.

Tre Williams led the Dukes with a season-high 19 points. Williams' previous high (17) was set in a non-conference road loss against DePaul on Dec. 7.

Duquesne had a hard time containing 6-foot-9 forward Hason Ward. The VCU big man scored a team-high-tying 13 points, while also posting a game-high 10 rebounds.

Duquesne looked to finally flip the page when it traveled to southwestern Ohio for a matchup with Dayton on Wednesday, but was unable to do so in a 75-54 loss to the Flyers.

Despite entering the game as 13.5-point underdogs, the Dukes managed to stick around for the first 10 minutes of the first half, leading 19-18. The latter portion of the first half saw Duquesne struggle to score, mustering just two field goals and one free throw the rest of the way.

The Flyers used a 17-5 game-shifting run – punctuated by a second-chance layup

from Toumani Camara as time expired – to take a 35-24 lead into halftime, and they never looked back.

The Flyers went on an 18-2 run across the first 6:39 of the second half, turning a slightly competitive game into an ugly one. The Dukes saw their deficit balloon to as many as 30 and, from then on, were never able to get it any closer than 18.

One of Duquesne's key weaknesses that has been exploited in the absence of 6-foot-10 forward Austin Rotroff is the team's lack of interior depth. Dayton used that hole to its advantage, outscoring Duquesne 50-26 on points in the paint.

Dayton's Kobe Elvis led all scorers with 13 points. Williams led the Dukes with 12 points.

Duquesne will be back in action on Saturday evening, when it welcomes Fordham to the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse in a game that will be nationally televised on CBS Sports Network.

Since besting the Dukes almost a month ago, the Rams have won just one of eight games in the meantime.

In its last 10 home games against Fordham (a stretch that dates back to Jan. 9, 2008), Duquesne has won seven times.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

As of late, it's been a struggle for Keith Dambrot and the Duquesne men's basketball team.

Pittsburgh Zoo penguins parade through winter weather

CAROLINE KUCKO
staff writer

The penguins at the Pittsburgh Zoo are embracing the winter weather and going on parade on Saturdays and Sundays this month.

Every weekend throughout the month of February, the penguins will take a walk outside of the upper entrance to the PPG Aquarium and spend a half hour playing and enjoying the outdoors. The parade begins promptly at 11:30 a.m. and is included with zoo admission.

As guests rotate through the parade viewing area, they will get the unique opportunity to interact with the penguins and learn more about the friendly animals from a closer perspective.

“Penguins on Parade’ is a really great chance for visitors to engage with our penguins in a way that they don’t get to inside the aquarium,” said Aquarist Jessica Ries.

The parade has quickly become an annual hit among the Pittsburgh community. Public Relations and Media Manager Ian Hunter referred to the public’s response as “overwhelmingly positive,” with lines occasionally extending all the way back to the zoo’s main entrance despite cold temperatures.

While the parade is certainly an

entertaining experience for guests, it is also incredibly beneficial to the penguins’ development.

“Penguins on Parade’ is a great enrichment opportunity for our penguins,” Ries said, who works directly with the animals as a primary caretaker. “They get to go outside, get some fresh air and experience the winter season here in Pittsburgh.”

Ries further described the parade as a helpful change of pace for the penguins both environmentally and socially. Not only do they get the chance to experience the winter elements outside of their habitat, but they also get to socialize with dozens of guests.

Participation in the parade is completely voluntary for the penguins, according to Ries.

“The birds do all of the work,” Ries said. “We open the exhibit door, say ‘come on, lets go!’ and whichever birds want to join us come outside.”

On warmer days, the penguins can be seen waddling around the parade area and playing with bubbles, but they are truly in their glory in the wintry weather.

“The best time to see a penguin parade is when it’s snowing,” says Ries. “They chase the snowflakes and toboggan on their bellies and it’s a really great experience to see and participate in.”



COURTESY OF PITTSBURGH ZOO

Aside from hockey, Pittsburgh's penguins enjoy parading through the outdoors to entertain the zoo's guests.

Although “Penguins on Parade” is scheduled to take place through Feb. 27, the Pittsburgh Zoo plans to extend the event for as long as the weather cooperates.

According to the zoo’s website, temperatures must be below 45 degrees and above 25 degrees in order for the event to be deemed safe for the penguins. If the parade is canceled due to weather, the penguins can still be seen from their habitat inside the PPG Aquarium.

The Pittsburgh Zoo also offers a variety of other attractions for guests to enjoy throughout the winter offseason.

Specifically, guests can check out the Tropical Forest exhibit which contains 16 primates

including the orangutan and two-toed sloth among others. The Worlds of Discovery exhibit is also open featuring various reptiles, meerkats and more.

While warm-climate animals are off exhibit throughout the colder months, the tigers and Canadian lynx are on exhibit outdoors and are enjoying the winter weather. The two-story PPG Aquarium housing a wide variety of fish, sharks and other ocean animals is also open for guests to explore.

Whether stopping by to watch the penguin parade or exploring the numerous other exhibits, there is something for everyone to enjoy at the Pittsburgh Zoo.

campus events

Lunar New Year Event
Feb. 10 @ 6 p.m.

Join the Asian Student Association in the Union Ballroom for the Year of the Tiger! Look forward to food, prizes, performances and more.

DIY Scent-Roller and Spray Night
Feb. 10 @ 9 p.m.

Make some relaxing self-care products, with free walking tacos included!

Sweet Streamin' Open Mic Night
Feb. 10 @ 9 p.m.

Come sing or stream the performance live through DSTV! Special performance by Mic Drop. Food provided.

Epic Bingo
Feb. 11 @ 9 p.m.

The time has come! Make your way down to the Union Ballroom for the best game, the best prizes with the best people.

Super Bowl Snack Dips

Recipes by Emma Polen | Features Editor

Looking for some epic Super Bowl snacks? Try out these four shareable cheese dips for a quick & easy way to entertain during the game. All can be made using just a microwave and a fridge!

Toffee Cream Cheese Dip

Ingredients

- 8 ounces cream cheese
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup powdered sugar
- 2/3 cup toffee (crushed)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Instructions

1. Beat the cream cheese, then add the brown sugar, powdered sugar and vanilla.
2. Beat the dip together until fluffy.*
3. Add the toffee pieces, mixing most of the 2/3 cup into the dip and saving some for topping.
4. Serve dip right away, or refrigerate and save for later.

*The easiest way to mix this dip together is with a hand-mixer or immersion blender.

Dip with: Granny Smith apples, pretzel sticks or fruit tray

Classic Buffalo Chicken Dip

Ingredients

- 8 ounces cream cheese
- 1 can shredded chicken
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/3 cup (or more) hot sauce

Instructions

1. Heat cream cheese in a microwave-safe bowl for 30 sec to 1 min in the microwave.
2. Mix the cream cheese to heat evenly, then add the chicken.
3. Microwave the dip for another 30 sec to 1 min.
4. Add the cheddar and hot sauce to the hot dip, microwaving if the cheese does not fully melt.
5. Add additional hot sauce and/or cheese to taste, depending on the desired spiciness.

Dip with: Tortilla chips, celery or toasted bread

Homemade Nacho Cheese Dip

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup Velveeta cheese (diced)
- 1 tablespoon milk
- 1 pinch chili powder

Instructions

1. Add all ingredients to a microwave-safe bowl.
2. Microwave dip for 2-3 mins, stirring every 30 sec until fully melted.
3. Add more chili powder or milk to-taste.

Dip with: Pretzels, tortilla chips or veggie tray

Super Bowl Spinach Dip

Ingredients

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 cup sour cream
- 2-3 ounces water chestnuts (chopped)
- 3/4 tablespoon dijon mustard
- 1-2 cloves garlic (minced)
- 6 oz chopped canned spinach (drained)
- 1/4 cup grated parmesan

Instructions

1. Heat cream cheese in a microwave-safe bowl for 30 sec to 1 min in the microwave.
2. Add the remaining ingredients and stir, heating for another 1 to 2 min as needed until the dip is fully combined.
3. Serve dip right away, or refrigerate and save for later.

Dip with: Bread bowl, pita bread/ chips or whole grain crackers

capri's kind words

Give love to every crevice

Each and every person deserves to feel loved, cherished and appreciated this time of year.

It's easy to feel caught up in the conventionality of Valentine's Day, whether in a relationship or not. Remember you are an individual, undefined by the expectations set by M&M commercials and flower sales at Giant Eagle.

You are resilient all on your own, and you bring light to every person you interact with. That is what love is all about, and that is what you should focus on Feb. 14 and every day after.

By loving yourself, bit by bit, you will come to make the world around you a cozier place.

Treat yourself with the same kindness you are so excited to give others this holiday. Show your loved ones you love them just by being you, by making these moments count.

Spread love in every moment you get, but remember it starts with you.

—Capri Scarcelli

Experience more with these Pittsburgh date ideas

EMMA POLEN
features editor

Are you short on cash but looking for a great Valentine's date idea? According to marketing company Harris Insights & Analytics, people are actually happier when their dates spend money on experiences rather than material purchases. Date nights based on making memories can be a better option than buying flowers or chocolate, for multiple reasons. And Pittsburgh museums offer the perfect opportunity for your relationship goals.

Museums offer the unique experience of conversation starters every few feet. Whether it's modern art, old-world sculptures or even undead mannequins, you and your date will have plenty to talk about.

In addition, museums allow you

to show off your knowledge on history, art, music and more. Making conversation about a particular piece of work makes the experience more meaningful.

After all: Pittsburgh museums are locations of love.

According to Ashley Moss, president of Hello Productions, a Pittsburgh wedding company, museums are popular venues for romance.

"I would say about half of ours were held at Pittsburgh museums or landmarks, such as Carnegie Museum, Phipps, Hartwood Acres, the Aviary [and the] Museum Lab," Moss said.

Phipps Conservatory, the Frick, Heinz History Center, the Andy Warhol and even Carnegie Science Center offer event spaces that host numerous engagement parties and weddings every year.

Whether you're more interested

in a classical museum experience or something a little more unique, Pittsburgh has endless possibilities for the perfect couples' location.

Pittsburgh Museum Date Ideas A-Z

Andy Warhol Museum

Visit the famous Campbell soup can, and then warm up with a meal at the Warhol Cafe.

Bicycle Heaven

Kick off your relationship and hit the brakes with a trip to the world's largest bicycle collection.

Black & Ghost Haunted Downtown Tour

Enjoy the spooky side of your city on a walking tour of Downtown Pittsburgh's haunted history.

Carnegie Museum of Natural History and Art

Remember that fight you had with

your significant other? Dig up some more ancient history with a visit to Pittsburgh's finest museum.

The Frick Pittsburgh

Combine classy with classique.

Heinz History Center

Have a ball at the Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum inside the Heinz History Center. After roaming the museum, grab a bite at another historic location in Pittsburgh with a visit to Strip District's Pamela's, Wholly's or Penn Mac.

The Living Dead Museum

Nothing says "I love you" like a bunch of undead mannequin zombies. After a tour through the dead bodies, finish your date with a shopping trip through the rest of the Monroeville Mall. No brain eating required.

Mattress Factory

Local art for a one-of-a-kind date

experience; Art as unique as you two.

National Aviary

Let your relationship take flight while supporting the conservation of the lovebirds like yourself.

Phipps Conservatory

Love grows here among the beautiful blooms.

Pinball Perfection

You might "flip out" over the nation's largest collection of pinball machines. Get competitive with hands-on gaming from pinball dating all the way back to the 1930s.

Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium

Did you know seahorses mate for life? Take inspiration from the small fish at the PPG Aquarium.

Randyland

Visit the creative works of local artist Randy Gilson for a weird, whimsical photo-op, and maybe catch a glimpse of the museum's creator.

Editors' Pick: The coolest date spots we could think of

THE DUKE STAFF

The commercialism of Valentine's Day can become redundant. For *The Duke*, we've compiled a list of unique date ideas for a nice change of pace for relationships, friendships and self-care. See for yourself which hidden treasure could be your next greatest memory!

Luke Henne (Longhorn Steakhouse - comfortably cozy) \$\$



This is about as comfortable as it gets. And that's coming from someone who goes there for almost any special occasion (Valentine's Day, birthdays, etc.). Take your special someone to Longhorn. Personally, I'm a fan of a modest six-ounce sirloin and a double side of mashed potatoes. They also say not to fill up on bread, but at Longhorn, I don't take their advice. Just make sure you come with a lot of money (it's not cheap!).

Zoe Stratos (Mix Candle Co. - cozy aroma, light with care!) \$\$\$



If you're looking for a different kind of Valentine's Day date, try out candle making. Located right on Butler Street in the heart of Lawrenceville, Mix Candle Co. features a wall of over 100 unique and high quality soy blend oils to mix into a long lasting candle of your own creation. Not only do you choose and mix your scents, you also choose from a variety of jars and create a custom label for your candle before it's left to cool. While your candle is cooling, make sure to check out the other businesses in Lawrenceville, grab some lunch or dinner and return to pick it up. Mix Candle Co. is great for walk-in visits, or your party can make a reservation.

Andrew Cummings (Con Alma - cozy with flair) \$\$\$



If you are looking for something more interesting than the standard dinner out, look no further than Con Alma. With two locations, one Downtown and one in Ellsworth, patrons get to experience live jazz music alongside their meal. Con Alma features local musicians and is a great way to become acquainted with Pittsburgh's live music scene. Their menu is Latin-inspired, and the location in Ellsworth features an all-vegetarian menu. Be sure to make a reservation ahead of time to get a table near the bandstand.

Emma Polen (Molly's Trolleys - cozy and entertaining) \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$



Interested in a group date experience this year? Or are you more inclined toward Valentine's? Reserve a two-hour private tour of the city in one of Pittsburgh's iconic red trolley cars. Or, hop on for one of Molly's scheduled (and cheaper) sightseeing trolley tours. Whether you're more concerned with the city's history or you just want transportation to all the best photo-op locations in the city, Molly's Trolleys offer the perfect ride.

Mary Liz Flavin (Ace Axe Throwing - excitingly dangerous) \$\$



Looking for something a little more exciting this Valentine's Day? Bring a date or a friend to Ace Axe Throwing. Located in Homestead PA this one-of-a-kind experience offers a wide variety of games from traditional tournament play to cricket, timber and countdown. At \$25 per person for a one hour walk-in session and \$30 per person for a 2 hour group session with tournaments and game play - you can get a fun

night for a reasonable price. Also for those 21 and older there is a bar. Hit the target with this date, hopefully it makes the cut!

Capri Scarcelli (Escape Room Pittsburgh - puzzlingly perfect) \$\$



Want to really get to know your date? See how well you two work together trapped in a room with only one way out! An interactive, in-person puzzle, couples must crack riddles, find clues and search for hidden secrets to break out of the room before the timer stops. There are multiple themes to choose from, and the more friends, the merrier. You can make it a contest too: Whoever is slacking off more in the escape room must buy their partner a treat afterward. Tickets are \$30.

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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“Do what you feel in
your heart to be right
— for you’ll be criticized
anyway.”

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

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

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editorial policy

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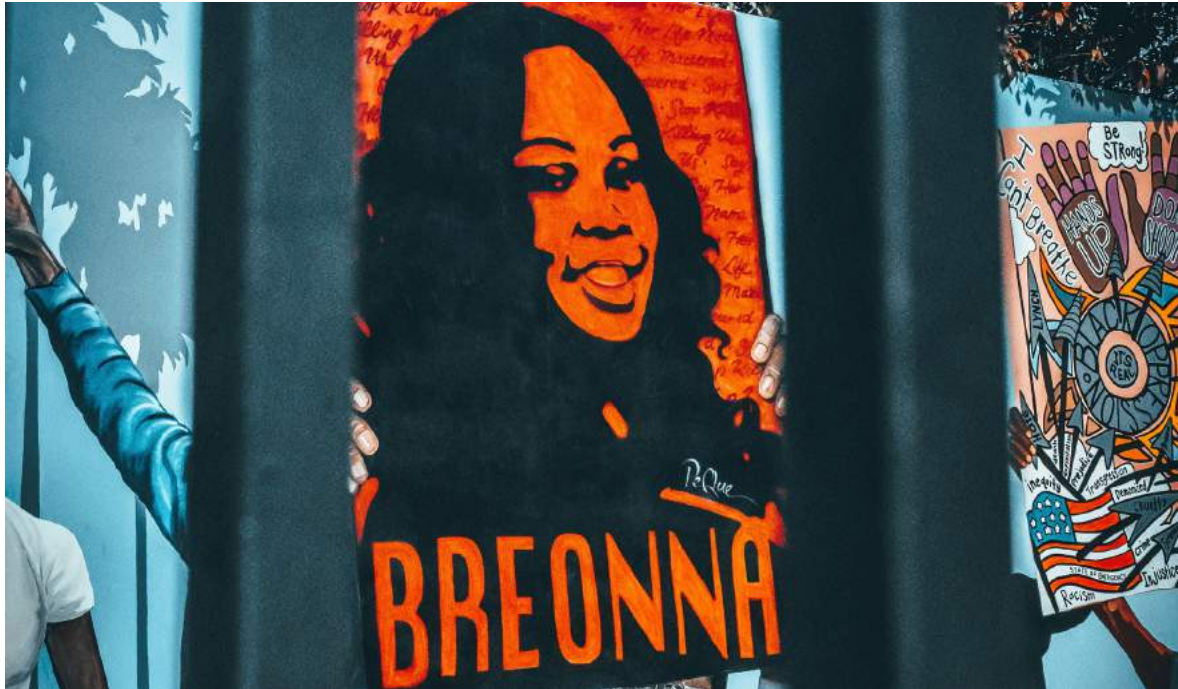
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Corrections/clarifications

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

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COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

No-knock warrants are death sentences

On Feb. 3, a no-knock warrant took the life of Amir Locke, a 22-year-old Black man in Minneapolis, Minn. On March 13, 2020, a no-knock warrant took the life of Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old Black woman in Louisville, Ky.

Both, though uninvolved in crimes that would merit a Special Weapons and Tactics Teams (SWAT) response, had their lives cut short during no-knock SWAT raids. A simple change in legislation could have saved their lives.

These instances are just two of the latest in raids gone wrong. No-knock warrants are death sentences for citizens — and officers, too — allowing for untimely deaths of innocent people. In a *New York Times* investigation done from 2010-2016, at least 94 people had been killed during no-knock and knock-and-announce raids, 13 of which were officers.

In the case of the most recent no-knock warrant tragedy, Locke was killed in his apartment after being woken from his sleep, and while reaching for a legal weapon to defend himself. Reports say that they were looking for his cousin, rather than Locke, though he was not on the premises.

At its initial conception, no-knock warrants were intended for high-risk scenarios such as hostage situations, though they became common for low-level drug searches during the militarization of police units during the mid 20th century.

But since their inception, no-knock warrants have been the subject of controversy, especially when discussing the protections of the Fourth Amendment. In the 1995 Supreme Court case of *Wilson v. Arkansas*, the dispute was legally put to rest, permitting unannounced entries in situations that could risk harm to police or evidence being destroyed. However, when put into

practice, the raids could potentially cause greater risk to citizens as well as the police who execute them.

The raids have always been an unnecessary violent endeavor rooted in racism with little regard for life. On top of that, it eliminates due process, giving police and SWAT teams the ability to be judge, jury and executioner.

Frequently the outcomes use egregious tactics resulting in injury or death of those within the home, innocent or not. It is a practice of violence under the guise of law enforcement, elimi-

our government. Finally, on Feb. 7, press secretary Jen Psaki revealed that President Joe Biden was looking at possibly placing limitations on no-knock warrants.

The Department of Justice took the first steps in September, announcing that they were cutting back the use of the raids by federal agents, but the policy should have been branched out to other state and federal agencies.

For the risk involved, at least strict rules and procedures should govern how to conduct the raids. A ban on no-knock warrants would be a positive step, but ultimately more will be needed to address the violence resulting from the execution of both police forced-entry and SWAT raids. In practice, knock-and-announce warrants are executed just as quickly, with police knocking and breaching the residence simultaneously in many cases.

Another argument is to simply mandate bodycams, but footage isn't always enough to hold officers accountable for breaking protocol, and still not a way to prevent unnecessary violent encounters that end in unjust killings — such as that of Locke and Taylor.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures' State Bill Tracking Database, seven states have introduced bills related to search warrants since May 2020. In October 2020, Virginia became the third state in the United States to implement a statewide ban on no-knock warrants, and the first to do so since the killing of Taylor. Florida and Oregon also have bans.

The U.S. shouldn't be permitting such actions that so heavily go against our Constitutional rights. The use of no-knock warrants must end, otherwise who knows how many more will be unjustly killed.



ZOE STRATOS
opinions editor

nating any chance of a person pleading their innocence.

Moving into more recent incidents, no-knock searches are disproportionately aimed at minority communities, especially the Black population. According to the study by *The Times*, half of the 81 civilians killed during no-knock and knock-and-announce raids were members of minority groups.

Many, especially from the Black community, are taking to the streets, once again, in light of Locke's death.

Public protesters should not, they though largely have, fallen upon deaf ears within

staff editorial

Inconsistency in Los Angeles venue capacities

As Sunday comes around, chances are you'll be tuning in to watch the Cincinnati Bengals battle the Los Angeles Rams in Super Bowl LVI at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, Calif., a suburb of Los Angeles.

Or, just maybe, you'll be one of the nearly 100,000-plus people heading to the big game.

That's right. The stadium that traditionally houses approximately 70,000 people will expand its capacity to over 100,000 for the Super Bowl.

The place was packed throughout January, particularly when the Rams hosted the nearby San Francisco 49ers on both Jan. 9 (regular season) and Jan. 30 (NFC Championship Game).

At the same time, Los Angeles' main college basketball programs - USC and UCLA - were not permitting the general public to attend games due to Covid-19 precautions.

Where is the consistency?

On Jan. 13, the third-ranked UCLA Bruins lost a home game to Oregon in front of 119 fans (those being close family and friends).

Just four days later, the Rams beat the Arizona Cardinals in their opening-round playoff game at SoFi Stadium in front of 70,625 fans.

The Galen Center (USC), Pauley Pavilion (UCLA) and SoFi Stadium are all within Los Angeles County. In many instances, public health decisions have been made with a uniform approach overlooking any given county.

Both the Galen Center and Pauley Pavilion have since returned to allowing fans (with proof of vaccination or a negative test required), but why did attendance ever disappear to begin with?

On Jan. 18, UCLA head coach Mick Cronin spoke to the media prior to a Jan. 20 game at Utah, saying, "I think what will help us is to run out in front of fans. I think it's hugely demoralizing to our guys to play games in empty arenas when there's 80,000 [70,625, to be exact] people at the Rams game yesterday."

He's right. Who wouldn't be confused by such a measure?

Limiting (or restricting) attendance at games made sense before Covid vaccines were available. But now, it seems unusual to have such inconsistent measures in place within the same county.

Both Gavin Newsom (the governor of California) and Eric Garcetti (the mayor of Los Angeles) were in attendance for the Rams' Jan. 30 game. That would seem to suggest that they're okay with full-capacity crowds remaining a staple.

Imagine what a financial loss there would be if the city lost the Super Bowl due to attendance restrictions. It would be a nightmare. It'd be hard to envision a scenario in which that happens.

As private universities, however, both USC and UCLA have every right to make the decisions they see fit when it comes to their attendance policies for games.

But it just doesn't make sense. The vaccination/negative test protocols have been in place since the start of the season. Nothing has changed on that front. So why the sudden change when the city and county weren't requiring it?

It should be an all-or-nothing deal. Consistency is key, but it's been nonexistent lately.

Is public health still at the forefront? Or does money talk?

“Play stupid games, win stupid prizes”

PETER BOETTGER
staff columnist

While roughhousing with my older brother, my Mom often used the saying: “Play stupid games, win stupid prizes.” Throughout this pandemic, this country has seen this saying come true with countless examples of people playing the game Cat & Mouse with Covid-19. We’ve seen numerous antivaxxers lose their lives to something that is completely avoidable by simply receiving a vaccine, but unfortunately they decided to downplay Covid’s lethality — and got punished for it.

With that said, students haven’t been playing around with the virus, an overwhelming amount of them have obtained vaccines and boosters ever since they were available. At Duquesne, 93% of resident students are vaccinated, and in some cases boosted, too, as of Jan. 31 statistics.

As someone whose family is split between the states of North Carolina and Delaware, I’ve been in two completely different environments when it comes to Covid policy. However, neither states has as many mandates as Duquesne. At the University of Delaware, masks are required at

all indoor facilities with the only exception being students actively running around the gym. My step-brother plays lacrosse at a small private school for Lees McRae College in North Carolina, and masks are only required in classrooms but aren’t mandated in hallways, gyms, etc.

I’m never going to say to take the North Carolinian approach and get rid of masks entirely at every public event, though the number of cases are steadily declining, not only in Allegheny County, but in all of Pennsylvania.

Duquesne students should at least be allowed to take off the mask in their dorms or while actively running around in the gym or basketball court.

Many sources differ on their threshold for herd immunity. For example, Mayo Clinic, says herd immunity is feasible if 70% of the population is vaccinated, while Yale Medicine says “it’s now estimated to be higher—some say up to 85%.” Even Dr. Fauci told the *New York Times* in December “We really don’t know what the real number is. I think the real range is somewhere between 70 to 90%.”

With the 93% vaccination mark, the Duquesne student population is past the point of herd immunity, according to statistics

and should be granted a loosened mask mandate.

But it’s not only the mandates, this is also about compliance with the mandates. According to the Duquesne dashboard, 99% of the student population has been compliant with the Covid-19 vaccine policy. Yet we’re as cautious with the Omicron variant as we were with the initial wave in 2020, despite the vast amount of vaccinations and the lower number of hospitalizations of the vaccinated and people between the ages of 18-29.

Do I have to acknowledge the obvious and say scores of people on campus don’t follow the rules in dorms anyway? I’ve seen countless students on my floor, and on floors of my friends not wearing masks, whether in the hallway, laundry room or even in the elevator. I’ve even talked to different RAs when they don’t have masks on. But it’s not only our dorms, it’s our very own arena.

In working for the production crew of the athletic department, crowd shots reveal that spectators, ranging from kids to the elderly, are not wearing masks at sporting events. Moreover, at the season opener for the men’s team against Rider, an overwhelming number of the invigorated student section weren’t wearing



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

According to the Duquesne dashboard, 99% of the student population has been compliant with Covid-19 vaccine policies on campus.

a mask— but, no one from the event staff asked a student to put their mask back on.

I went to both of the women’s basketball games versus Pitt and Akron, and not a single arena staff member asked me to put on a mask when I took it off during both of those games. Even when I walked to the concession stand to get a drink during both games, no one stopped me.

Finally, who are we supposed to be protecting? Over 90% of students, whether commuter or on-campus, are vaccinated. Perhaps we’re protecting the elderly? According to the *New York Times*, the percentage of the 65+ population that’s vaccinated in Allegheny County is 87%, and that percentage

remains over 80% in every county surrounding Allegheny with the only exception being Beaver County. But those percentages pass every metric for the herd immunity previously mentioned.

While you can say we’re protecting the unvaccinated, why should the vaccinated be responsible for those without religious or medical exemptions? If those without exemptions are going to play the stupid game of Cat & Mouse with Covid, they’re going to win the stupid prize of a hospital bill; And I do not care, and will not care about something completely avoidable, especially with all the precautions such as vaccines, which have been available for almost a year now.

Examinations and exemptions: the SAT problem

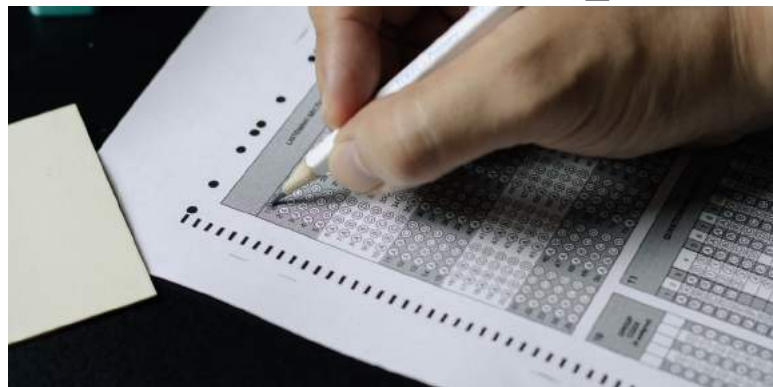
MIA LUBRANI
staff columnist

By 2024, the College Board will be administering the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) completely online, as an attempt to modernize the SAT and ensure the safety of test-takers. The new process may have come too late for high school students due to recent claims that the test has become irrelevant to college admission.

The SAT is an outdated testing system, only evaluating students in English and math. Moreover, many colleges now don’t require an SAT, and students shouldn’t have to stress over a test that doesn’t matter, let alone in a pressure cooker classroom setting. The online aspect has come too late, and many students already enrolled in college deserved the option when it mattered.

An increasing number of colleges are opting out of the SAT. For the 2022 fall enrollment process, that number will be at least 1,785 test optional universities, according to Fair Test. That is a near 80% of universities that will be ditching the decades-old standard of SAT/ACT requirement.

Most institutions will still accept scores. When applying to Duquesne University last year, I submitted my SAT score to the McAnulty College of Liberal Arts, and chose to submit my scores although the university extended the optional policy because I had



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

The fall pilot of the SAT online test, administered virtually through the College Board, recorded that 80% of students found the virtual format to be less stressful.

already taken my test. Many of my friends applied to colleges like Penn State University, Duquesne and The University of Pittsburgh without submitting scores and were also accepted.

Some argue that tests will still play a role in the administration process, and the College Board published an argument for the continuation of the testing. According to the College Board, 83% of students say they want the option to submit scores in college applications.

Normal test procedures will still be taken for students when the test becomes virtual. Proctored settings, like schools or testing centers, are still a requirement when scheduling to take the exam. It will still be scored on a 1600 scale. Also, there will still be multiple-choice sections.

There are many nontraditional aspects of the new test. Students everywhere are content that the exam will run about two hours long, cutting an hour off the time and adding more time per question. The College Board also eliminated the SAT’s optional essay and subject tests. *USA Today* explains the digital test will operate under adaptive testing, changing the test wording and questions in goals of reducing the time students spend answering questions that are too easy or too hard.

Touching upon the inequities in access to technology, the College Board is allowing students to use their device, a school issued device or a College Board issued device. Students can use a laptop or tablet. The digital SAT has also been revamped to ensure work is saved in the case of a loss of connectiv-

ity. This new process ensures that cheating is practically impossible because of the unique test form for each student.

I personally had to take AP tests online. The tests from home made the test less stressful, and I saw no difference in the ability to take a test online besides being able to constantly keep pace with the digital timer. Having the chance to do the SAT online would’ve been more convenient, because waiting for the scores to drop was always the most worrisome part.

More updates include reading sections that are shorter with one question related to each, the allowance of calculators during the entire math section and scores received within days rather than the multiple week prolongation.

In the fall pilot of the test, administered virtually through the College Board, 80% of students found the virtual format to be less stressful and 100% of educators reported a positive experience.

NBC News said that the recent ditching of test requirements may be due to criticism that the exams favor wealthy white students and put minority and low-income students at a disadvantage. The unfair nature of extreme test prep and distrust because of the 2020 admission scandal have caused backlash and cancellation of the test.

The College Board argues that their test helps to connect low-in-

come students to colleges or scholarships that might otherwise pass them over. The new digital format is meant to increase safety and access to the test while Covid-19 is a continued barrier in education. Khan Academy’s online study programs and College Board’s practice tests, free to all, will prepare students for their digital format.

Although the College Board is actively making changes to update the test in accordance with safety and equality, the test-takers and universities have seemed to cancel the decades-long standard of SAT/ACT requirements for the time being.

Students’ abilities and intelligence are measured on more than a basis of getting above 1000 points on an SAT in the subjects of Math and English. Students have specialties in theater, arts, argument, math, english, sciences and languages. The entire education system could be improved because it is the most stagnant institution in American society, with the model originating in 1837 according to Wonderopolis.

With the test becoming more irrelevant to colleges’ admissions due to Covid related shutdowns, the number was significantly down from 2.2 million to 1.5 million test-takers. The College Board may be making these changes to boost their popularity and accessibility back to their normal consumer level.

Finding that forever person



CAPRI SCARCELLI

a&e editor

From college sweethearts to newly weds, former Duke advertising manager Carissa Haslam and husband Tanner Swales settle into adult life in one another's loving, supportive company.

The couple met when Haslam needed a ride to a church event her freshman year of college, when Swales was a sophomore. According to Haslam, she Facebook-messaged Swales to ask if she and her friends could tag along, to which he said yes.

She eventually got his number through FriendO, a quiz game that helps acquaintances get to know each other more.

After a few months of texting one another, Swales took Haslam out for brunch at DeLuca's in the Strip District, bought her a bouquet of flowers and asked her to be his girlfriend. The rest, of course, is history.



COURTESY OF CARISSA HASLAM

Carissa and Tanner Swales, both Duquesne grads, tied the knot July of 2021 at Hartwood Acres Stables.

said the two are "learning so much together" as they grow together as a couple.

"One of the best parts of getting married young is that you don't have your whole life together yet. It's been super fun just figuring things out together, making mistakes together and just having the support of a spouse in this very chaotic season of life. It's good and recommended," Haslam said.

For those thinking about their love lives this Valentine's season, Haslam encourages people to focus on every relationship in their life – not just their significant other.

"I love that there is a holiday about love, it's a good reminder to focus on all of the relationships important to you and to grow from them," Haslam said.



COURTESY OF CARISSA HASLAM

Carissa and Tanner met Carissa's freshman year.

Haslam and Swales dated for three and a half years before getting engaged on a Friday the 13th in 2021—Haslam's final year at Duquesne.

According to Haslam, she was nervous about whether the relationship would last throughout her college years with long-distance, but knew in her heart that she found her person.

"I was thinking to myself: this is actually happening, I think I found the one," Haslam said.

The couple's magical wedding took place on July 17, 2021, at Hartwood Acres Stables.

The day was not free from challenges, with rain muddying the stable grounds and puddling along tent entrances.

However, the rain was a pleasant surprise for the couple, Haslam said, making the moment all the more romantic and memorable.

With a barefoot bride twirling in the storm and umbrellas hiding shy smiles, the day made for perfect pictures and stories to tell down the road, according to Haslam.

Haslam said that their wedding was a "huge gift" considering Covid-19 chal-

lenges last year. They were able to have 100 close family members and friends join their celebration.

The guests enjoyed a food truck called Burgh Bites, serving an array of Pittsburgh-themed sandwiches and appetizers.

Married life for the couple hasn't changed much of their lives besides living together, according to Haslam.

Haslam works in communications and media in Pittsburgh and Swales is working toward becoming a counselor. The two enjoy hosting gatherings at their apartment in Pittsburgh to see their loved ones, but also enjoy relaxing together after a long day.

"My whole college life I was dreaming of the day I would have nothing to do after 5 p.m." Haslam said. "For us, our favorite person is the other person. It's been super great to start this new stage of my life with someone I love, and it makes my life more fun and happy."

Whether it be cooking, chores or learning how to cohabit with a loved one, Haslam



COURTESY OF CARISSA HASLAM

The couple enjoyed their rainy wedding day

Valentine's Day on the Bluff

NICHOLAS ZOTOS

staff writer

To all the college couples out there, it is officially that time of year: Valentine's Day.

Throughout Duquesne, students will be getting their significant other and friends flowers and treats, and they will be bringing each other out on dates. Whether on or off campus, there are plenty of opportunities for Duquesne students to celebrate Feb. 14.

"I want to bring my friends out to eat and hangout for Valentine's Day. While I do not have a significant other, Valentine's Day reminds me of the others I have in my life. Pittsburgh is a great place to have fun and I cannot wait to spend quality time with my sorority for Valentine's Day weekend" Jessica Wellmann, a sophomore biology major said.

What specifically is there to do on Valentine's Day?

"If you have a date, I think the best thing to do is bring them out to eat. There are some great restaurants in Downtown Pitts-

burgh. Also from my personal experience, food is a great way to another person's heart," Elisha Schoeneck, a freshmen health sciences major said.

While Pittsburgh offers a variety of interesting and unique date experiences, Duquesne's campus will be hosting a number of its own Valentine's Day activities.

On Feb. 14 the Center for Excellence in Diversity and Student Inclusion will be staging a Valentine's Day Flower Giveaway in the Africa Room at 2 p.m.

DuqAthon will also be hosting a chocolate fondue night in The NiteSpot at 9 p.m. for students who have more of a sweet tooth.

"I personally do not like Valentine's Day. It seems a little cliché. But I like the spirit of Valentine's Day because it reminds us of our friends and family," Yasmine Alfrei, a freshman health science major, said.

"For example, my RA Grace Scanlon is someone I appreciate spending time with, and she is not a significant other. She and I will try to attend some of the programs here on campus."

Alfrei is not alone. For many Duquesne students, the Bluff is a great place to celebrate Valentine's Day with friends.

Strong Women, Strong Girls hosted a Galentine's Day celebration on Wednesday, Feb. 9, in the NiteSpot.

Erin Wrisley, secondary education English junior, is an executive board member of Strong Women Strong Girls. She looked forward to the bonding experience before Valentine's Day.

"Especially because it's an all girls' club, it's just another chance to be together and to hang out as a group," she said.

Leading up to Valentine's Day, Circle K is having their annual carnation sale. Carnations will be delivered to loved ones on campus Feb. 14 for \$2.50 per carnation, \$1 extra if you add a note. Find the ordering link on campus link before Friday, Feb. 11.

Students can also tune in to get in the Valentine's mood with the Sweet Streamin' Open Mic Night hosted by DSTV on Thursday, Feb. 10.

Residence Life is hosting the Red Hearts Semi-Formal Feb. 12 from 7-10 p.m. at the Red Ring.

There will be another event, the Black Love Day Formal, hosted by the Center for Excellence in Diversity and Student Inclusion and sponsored by the Black Student Union on Feb. 22 in the Power Center Ballroom.



EMMA POLEN | FEATURES EDITOR

Long-distance best friends Emily Pangonis and Nicole Albolino make cookies at Strong Women Strong Girls' Galentine's event Wednesday, Feb. 9.

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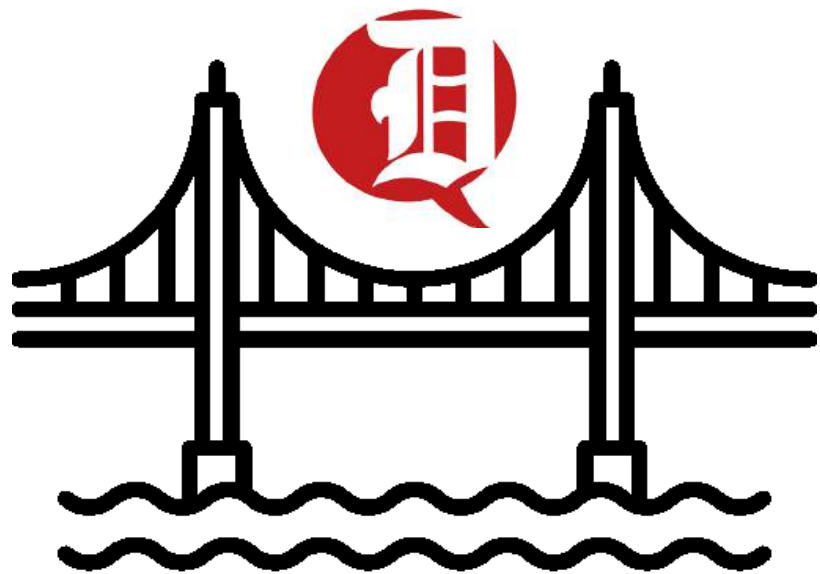


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