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St. Martin continues construction

MARY LIZ FLAVIN
news editor

Construction is soon coming to a close as St. Martin Hall nears completion in the renovation process. For rising juniors, seniors and professional students looking for a unique living experience, look no further than St. Martin Hall.

One of the older dormitories on campus, St. Martin was built in 1961 and has served as primarily a freshmen residence in the past. Since May, the dormitory has been undergoing a large makeover in order to update the facilities as well as re-shape the current living style.

"Construction is going right on schedule, right now there is not a lot you can see since it is an internal renovation. Through the semester we will continue to work until the construction crews begin to move off site in May," Tim Gigliotti, managing director of the Radnor Property Group, said, "we can furnish the site in June as we advance into the fall semester."

Compared to other living spaces on campus, St. Martin had decided to go with a single style living as opposed to the normal double occupancy rooms that other dorms and buildings provide. Gigliotti helped to interface as well as oversee the design and construction of the building.

"If you look at national market trends, single occupancy is more in trend now-a-days. In order to keep the campus as modern as possible we decided to go with single occupancy," Gigliotti said.

The standard room is a studio single with a shared Jack and Jill style bathroom (a bathroom that connects two rooms together). This includes an extra-long twin bed, desk, desk chair,

ST. MARTIN PAGE 2

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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Bridge collapse evidence of infrastructure flaws



ZOE STRATOS | OPINIONS EDITOR

Pittsburgh Public Safety and the City of Pittsburgh Fire Bureau held a news conference at the intersection of S. Braddock Avenue and Forbes Avenue on Friday. They announced that authorities would be entering the recovery phase over the weekend. From left to right: Lee Schmidt, acting public safety director & deputy director, operations & administration; Darryl Jones, fire chief; Corey O'Connor, city of Pittsburgh councilman; and Cara Cruz, public information officer.

ZOE STRATOS
opinions editors

In a heap of snow, rubble and collapsed steel, the Fern Hollow Bridge laid with a Port Authority bus in the center of the wreckage on Friday. Connecting intra-city neighborhoods, the 52-year-old steel structure fell under the weight of seven vehicles making their daily morning commute, and shortly before the president arrived to speak on infrastructure.

Protected by yellow tape and concrete barriers, many stared at the scene in horror and awe — the drivers and passengers lived, with a few minor injuries to both those on the bridge and those responding to the emergency.

The collapse came at an uncanny time, as President Joe Biden took a detour to the scene ahead of his scheduled stop. As he gazed into the ravine, he declared, "we're going to fix them all."

Built in 1970, the Fern Hollow Bridge spanned Frick Park allowing for an approximate 14,000 cars to pass over its sur-

face on a daily basis, along with two Port Authority bus routes that run around 200 trips a day.

The constant travel came to a sudden stop at approximately 6:45 a.m., leaving the people in Pittsburgh hoping for a replacement soon. With the new bipartisan program set to begin tackling infrastructure issues, Biden hopes that incidents such as these won't happen anymore.

According to the official White House website, the program will "rebuild America's roads, bridges and rails, expand access to clean drinking water, ensure every American has access to high-speed internet, tackle the climate crisis, advance environmental justice and invest in communities that have too often been left behind."

It will also take on supply chain issues, strengthening our nation's ports, airports and railways, allowing for new jobs to spring up across the U.S.

Overall, Pennsylvania is spending about \$6.1 billion this year on roads and bridges and, if all goes well, expects to receive an additional \$4 billion over the

next five years through the federal infrastructure program.

During a press conference at the scene on Friday, Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire chief Darryl Jones announced that the collapsed bridge would be a "major inconvenience" for the people of Pittsburgh as authorities begin the "recovery phase" before any plans for rebuilding.

Also at the scene was Pittsburgh Public Safety, as well as Councilman Corey O'Connor.

Both emphasized the road to recovery, even with city limitations.

"Clean up is most important, and everybody's safe, that's great. After that, we have to look at design, engineering, put it out to bid, find funding for it, because you're looking at millions of dollars that, right now, I don't know where that would be in the city budget," O'Connor said. "We've seen temporary bridges before, but we have not been told that that's what they would do. I think it'll be cleaning and then getting something from PennDOT in design as quick as we can."

Coming up on a week after initial word from authorities, many state and federal organizations have begun these actions to investigate the incident, remove the damaged vehicles and plan for reconstruction.

As of Feb. 1, neither the state nor the city had released details of past inspections to provide a fuller history of the bridge's structure and potentially what went wrong that Friday morning. Moreover, inspection crews have not released the details of the most recent report in September.

Shortly after the collapse, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) arrived at the scene to launch an investigation that could take more than a year, with little information released to the public thus far. The NTSB did not respond to The Duke for comment on their progress.

On Jan. 29, they began investigations, mapping the scene with drones before allowing the team to dive into the ground work. The city of Pittsburgh, the Port

BRIDGE PAGE 2

Without out word from the city, experts weight in on bridge collapse

BRIDGE PAGE 1

Authority and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation have been included as part of to the investigation.

According to authorities, the Port Authority bus — pulled out of the collapse on Jan. 31 — contained nine video cameras. With the acquisition of the footage, confirmed to be obtained on Jan. 30, the NTSB is now able to probe further.

Until then, other engineering experts are weighing in on what may have caused the catastrophe, and how a typical inspection process works.

The Fern Hollow Bridge had been in poor condition since 2011, according to previous inspections, though the bridge had a reduced weight limit of 26 tons because of these issues.

According to Kevin Heaslip, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at Virginia Tech, typical bridge inspections are done every two years; how-

ever, the condition of the Forbes Avenue bridge called for yearly inspections.

"There are three different aspects of a bridge. One is the bridge deck, which is the roadway surface; the superstructure, which holds the bridge up; And the substructure, which is the connection to the ground," Heaslip said. "In this case, the deck and the superstructure were rated in poor condition, meaning there were visual signs of deterioration. As for the substructure, it was rated as adequate."

A poor condition rating does not call for immediate attention nor closure, Heaslip added, only that it should be "slated for improvements or replacements at some point."

But in between that September inspection date to the Jan. 28 incident — something must have gone wrong.

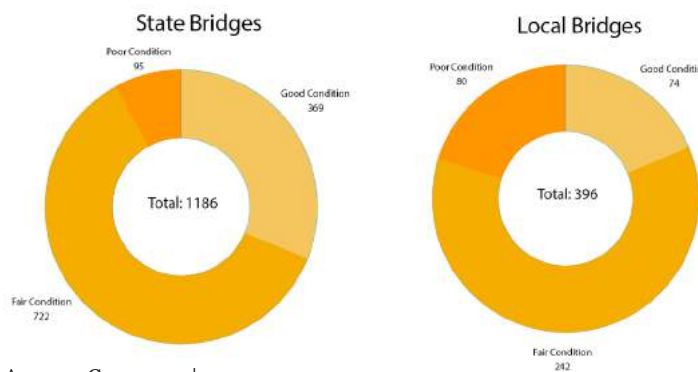
Although Heaslip, nor any engineer, can pinpoint the exact reason for the collapse at the moment, there are contributing



ZOE STRATOS | OPINIONS EDITOR

At the intersection of S. Braddock Avenue and Forbes Avenue, police blocked off the entrance to the Fern Hollow Bridge on Friday. A large crane and first responder vehicles sat just before the wreckage before clean up began over the weekend.

Allegheny County state and local bridges by condition



ANDREW CUMMINGS | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR
INFO FROM PENNDOT

factors.

"In Pittsburgh you have all sorts of weather: snow and warm summers, so the steel on that bridge will expand and contract over time. One of the things that can be done [for preventative maintenance] is painting and sealing the steel to make sure that corrosion doesn't take place," Heaslip said.

But even in taking preventative measures, the resources aren't always there, and the bridge doesn't always want to cooperate. Roberto Leon, the D.H. Burrows Professor of Construction Engineering at Virginia Tech, commented on these difficulties.

According to Leon, corrosion

is the "number one long term issue" for bridges made of steel or cement. In cases of steel structures, the iron becomes oxidized.

"In personal inspections, there's always one main reason for failure, but three or four other contributing reasons," Leon said. "But inspection is a costly enterprise. There needs to be an emphasis on maintenance, and we need to be proactive, but there's not enough resources."

Both Heaslip and Leon agreed that even with Biden's bipartisan infrastructure law coming into effect, the journey for repairing bridges across the country, and in the Pittsburgh region, will be difficult.

When it comes to bridges,

Pennsylvania has the second highest number of poor condition bridges in the nation, yet almost all 3,353 are open to public use. There are 176 in poor condition in Allegheny County, according to state statistics.

Experts agree the bridges possess issues that need attention, though they are not in immediate danger of collapse.

"In general, the procedures that cities and states use to inspect and manage these bridges work pretty well," Heaslip said. "In the long term, it's going to take something in order to rehabilitate or replace these bridges, and certainly I think the funding from the infrastructure bill will help, but it'll take time."

New on campus housing available for upperclassmen and grad students

ST. MARTIN PAGE 1

drawers for storage space, kitchenette stove top with an induction cooktop, microwave, stainless steel fridge and additional space for shelving.

Other room styles include studio doubles with a private bathroom, studio singles with a private bathroom and two-bed-rooms with a private bathroom.

Something that makes St. Martin Hall unlike any of the other living spaces on campus is the communal spot located on each floor. A full kitchen area, game room and a study spot alternate between floors. This design was included to improve community between both individual floors and the building as a whole, as well as provide spaces for students to unwind.

Katie Andaloro, a construction worker from Jendoco Construction Corporation, is one of the many workers who have been re-shaping St. Martin. From a building perspective, she understands the importance of community and what the common areas will mean to students.

"Friday night you might want to have game night or cooking might be your thing, it all de-

pends on what aspect of student life you are looking at," Andaloro said, "When you are a junior or upperclassmen you have the ability to be with other students all at the touch of a button."

Additional amenities include laundry shared per floor, a fitness center that includes four treadmills, four ellipticals, two free weight racks, a rowing machine and an open section for yoga mats. The ground floor includes an ADA unit as well.

Melissa Yot, assistant director of leasing and marketing for Brottier and St. Martin Hall, said that students have everything they could need included in the St. Martin facility.

"You are right here, a few minutes walk to your class. You have everything you could ever want," Yot said, "It is really exciting getting to see this project come to life from what it once was to what it could be."

In addition, St. Martin has been redirected to house upperclassmen students due to the university's request that both Brottier and St. Martin are designed to work as apartment style living, according to Gigliotti. Freshmen and sophomores will remain in the more tradi-

tional university facilities such as St. Ann Hall and Duquesne Towers.

For those interested in living at St. Martin for the Fall 2022 semester, applications are open until Feb. 11 and students will need to place a \$300 deposit in addition to the application. The leasing period is from Aug. 18, 2022, to May 8, 2023. It is important to note that St. Martin is a nine-month lease compared to that of Brottier Hall which is an 11 month lease.

For those looking to apply to live at St. Martin Hall or to find more information visit this link:
<https://duq.campus-labs.com/engage/organization/stmartin>

Students can also email:
stmartinhall@cocm.com with any additional questions



ANDREW CUMMINGS | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

The room shown above is an example of a studio single with a Jack and Jill style bathroom. The kitchen area includes a sink, microwave, fridge and extra storage.



ANDREW CUMMINGS | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Most floors are still in the renovation process. Construction is supposed to conclude by May 2022 so that the floors can be furnished in June.

College of Osteopathic Medicine receives new grant

LUKE HENNE
sports editor

What Duquesne envisions for its proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine, set to open in the fall of 2024, is progressively gaining both momentum and monetary resources.

The university announced this past week that it received a \$3 million grant for the osteopathic medicine school from the Henry L. Hillman Foundation, the largest it's ever received from the foundation.

"I want to express our deep appreciation for the Henry L. Hillman Foundation for this important gift, which will prepare our future medical students with the tools and knowledge to provide the highest level of care to patients, including those most in need," President Ken Gormley said in a news release.

"As we've seen with the Covid-19 pandemic, primary care doctors play a crucial role in keeping the public safe and healthy," Gormley said. "With the help of this key Henry L. Hillman Foundation grant, physicians from our college of medicine will deliver essential help to vulnerable populations, both in urban and rural communities, furthering Duquesne's long legacy of promoting health equity in this region and elsewhere."

The foundation's website states that it "supports great ideas and timely initiatives that are designed to take advantage of an emerging opportunity to improve the quality of life in Pittsburgh and southwestern Pennsylvania."

According to the release, the funding will be allocated toward "state-of-the art" medical training equipment, including advanced simulation technologies, augmented reality anatomy labs and maker space.

Dr. John Kauffman, who was selected as the dean of the proposed osteopathic medicine school in 2019, feels that the grant is an essential step for the medical college's future students.

"This grant will help ensure that our students receive exceptional training that will prepare them to provide compassionate, holistic care to underserved communities in Pittsburgh and beyond," Kauffman said in the release. "With Duquesne's expertise in nursing, pharmacy, health sciences and other disciplines, we are well positioned to educate the next generation of physicians."

According to an August 2019 news release, the osteopathic medicine school will become "the second medical school in Pittsburgh and the first Catholic osteopathic medicine school in Pennsylvania."

The osteopathic medicine school is expected to bring in an initial class of 75 students before expanding enrollment to a total of 600 students when it reaches full development.

Kauffman knows that such a grant is pivotal for bringing the best students to town.

"By providing our students with technologically advanced facilities and equipment, we will be able to provide a medical education experience not available at most other medical schools," Kauffman said. "We believe that



COURTESY OF SLAM COLLABORATIVE ARCHITECTS

A groundbreaking ceremony for the proposed school will be held on March 1.

this will help us recruit the best and brightest students to train here at Duquesne."

The building that houses the osteopathic medicine school will be located directly across Forbes Avenue from the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse, which reopened its doors to full-capacity crowds in 2021 after multiple years of renovations.

Bill Generett, the university's senior vice president of civic engagement and external relations, is eager to see how the location of both the medical college and the fieldhouse will help build the identity of Pittsburgh's Uptown neighborhood.

"We are excited to be part of the revitalization of the Uptown area," Generett said in a news release. "The new building and surrounding area will spur economic growth and technological advancement, which will further benefit the community at large."

In a time where Covid continues to take a toll on individuals abroad and the healthcare

system as a whole, Duquesne repeatedly emphasizes the importance of health equity.

The university previously received a \$2 million grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation, according to a July 2021 news release, which "[would help] build the foundation for a new medical college and for health care equity in underserved rural and urban areas."

Following July's grant, Gormley said that the osteopathic medicine school "will be one of the most forward-looking medical schools in the country," wherein future physicians will learn how to "serve communities, both urban and rural, that are in dire need of primary care doctors – including those that suffer disproportionately from poverty, low employment levels and other negative health determinants."

There will be a groundbreaking ceremony to help pave the way for construction of the osteopathic medicine school, which is set to begin later this year, on March 1.

Sports Info. and Media student puts in 100% at Duquesne

ANDREW CUMMINGS
multimedia editor

Dominic Ferro, a senior Sports Information and Media Student at Duquesne has taken his experiences and passion for media and applied it to opportunities in Pittsburgh.

"I love the city of Pittsburgh," said Ferro.

For Ferro, Pittsburgh has been an invaluable stop in his career in sports media.

"The Steelers, the Pirates, the Penguins, I love all the teams; I've been a huge fan of the teams since I was a kid," Ferro said.

Originally from York, Pa., Ferro enjoys the "small town feel" of areas like the residential neighborhoods in Pittsburgh.

"I think Pittsburgh's one of those cities that is a big city that holds all these huge companies, these big sports teams, but at the same time it kind of has like that small town feel to it, especially like the neighborhoods and stuff," said Ferro. "I just think it's like a beautiful area and I've always wanted to live in a big city. But being from a small town, I wanted some of that comfort."

After visiting Duquesne as a prospective college, Ferro felt that the

Sports Information and Media program would be a "good fit."

During his time at Duquesne, Ferro has taken advantage of opportunities to further his personal and professional growth.

Ferro is involved with multiple campus organizations. He is the co-vice president of Duquesne Student Television, he works with Duquesne Athletics Productions and has worked at Duquesne University School of Law's library.

Professors like Robert Healy III have helped Ferro discover new interests. In Healy's case, he helped Ferro develop an interest in writing.

"I didn't think I enjoyed writing my came here. I knew it'd be a large part of the media field, but he's really helped me develop those critical skills to have a strong control of the English language," Ferro said.

In the fall semester of 2021, Ferro interned with the Pittsburgh Penguins where he worked on video production. Ferro fondly remembers working with Sidney Crosby.

"Meeting Sidney Crosby was definitely one of the coolest experiences I've ever had. I was basically a coworker...which is just unreal and [to] see him face to face, a guy who I've looked up to since I was a kid



COURTESY OF DOMINIC FERRO

Dominic Ferro works the camera with the Atlantic League's York Revolution.

was just crazy," Ferro said.

"My time at Duquesne has been invaluable...all of the classes have been fulfilling. I've learned a lot... I look at myself before I came to Duquesne and I see how much I've changed and learned and have grown," Ferro said.

After graduation, Ferro plans to work in the media field, preferably for either professional or collegiate athletics.

Ferro is also considering applying to law school, which follows in the footsteps of his father. Ferro's father graduated from Duquesne University School of Law.

"It's definitely a lot of work, but if you find interest in it, it will be enjoyable...I want to do something that I love. I don't want to do something just for money. I want to do something that I truly care about and am excited about every single day that I go to work," Ferro said.

When asked about what brings him hope for the future, Ferro said, "What brings me hope personally, is my work ethic. I know that if I want something, I will outwork whoever to get where I want to. So I know whatever I want to do in life, if I truly put my 100% effort into it, I will be successful."

Weather Watch

Rain, snow and ice are coming to Pittsburgh, and the university is already taking action to keep their students, faculty and staff safe from the inclement weather.

Wednesday afternoon, university officials sent an email out to students announcing that classes would be moved to online learning on Thursday.

A subsequent email sent to students corrected a mistake in the prior, which read that Friday was virtual as well. As of now, Friday will still be in person.

As for undergraduate students in the nursing program, clinical rotations are canceled for both Thursday and Friday. Graduate students will still attend as normal.

"Clinical rotations are typically canceled due to weather conditions that impact safe driving conditions in the early morning hours. Students report for clinical at 6:30 a.m. when roads are not plowed," said dean of nursing, Mary Ellen Glasgow.

The nursing program also uses a "NursingAlert" system to send a notification to students and faculty in case of an emergency.

Pittsburgh can expect rain showers going into Thursday morning, changing to snow from northwest to southeast. Shortly after, a period of freezing rain and sleet will move in, according to meteorologist reports from WTAE.

Snow showers can then be expected overnight and through the day on Friday. A winter storm warning has been issued for Allegheny County from 1 a.m. Thursday to 10 a.m. Friday.

"The university is monitoring the weather situation for Friday, but it is too early to make a precise call on the best actions to take," said vice president of communications, Gabe Welsch.

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Eckenrode soaks up return with MBB game

LUKE HENNE
sports editor

At 94 years of age, Duquesne alumnus Jack Eckenrode finally returned to campus to watch his alma mater play in the refurbished UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse.

Despite graduating over 70 years ago, Eckenrode never made it a priority to come

why Eckenrode never had a chance to return to the Bluff.

"I was a family man," Eckenrode said, laughing. "I didn't have much time."

Eckenrode and McCombs both graduated from Mt. Lebanon High School, where their friendship blossomed. Both stayed close to home as college came around, with McCombs deciding to attend the Univer-

body picked you up.

"We wouldn't sit there [for] one minute. They saw the books, they picked you up and took you up to Dormont or Mount Lebanon. Dropped you off. You walked home."

Just as the lifestyle has changed, so has the cost of attending college.

"They didn't have school loans yet," Eckenrode said. "You could have a summer job and afford it [college]."

Having a friendship that saw one member hailed from Pitt and the other Duquesne reignited the debate surrounding whether the two programs should play one another on an annual basis.

Eckenrode and McCombs are advocates of the idea, ultimately hoping that all of the region's big-name programs, including schools like West Virginia and Penn State, can find a way to schedule one another in the future.

"It would draw. They should do it. I miss it," Eckenrode said. "It's the same with WVU. They should play Pitt. It doesn't have to be football, but basketball, they could fit that in."

"And Duquesne could play WVU. I know they may not do real good, but still, it would draw."

As a fan of a Duquesne program that's been starved of postseason recognition and national prominence for so long, Eckenrode hopes he can witness that return to glory and national respect.

It doesn't matter whether that comes in the form of a bid to the NCAA Tournament (the Dukes last appeared in the event in 1977) or the National Invitation Tournament (the Dukes won the event in 1955 and last appeared in the event in 2009).

"I would love to see that. I don't know why they don't recruit a little better so they can go [to a postseason tournament]," Eckenrode said. "The NIT, we looked forward to that every year. It was nice. It was a big deal to go to the NIT."

Eckenrode, who was a member of the Gamma Phi fraternity, reminisced about the memories he made during his active

involvement.

"I used to get tickets for my buddies from Pitt and Carnegie Mellon and W&J [Washington & Jefferson], and they'd give me tickets so that I could go to their events," Eckenrode said.

Before sitting back to watch his first game at the fieldhouse, Eckenrode offered



ANDREW CUMMINGS | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Chal McCombs (left) and Jack Eckenrode (right) share a friendship that dates back to high school.

back and watch the men's basketball team.

That is until this past Saturday, when he attended the Dukes' game against Saint Louis with his daughter, Susan Rendulic, and a lifelong friend, Chal McCombs.

What he saw when entering and walking around the fieldhouse put him in awe.

"I'm amazed with what I'm seeing," Eckenrode said. "We didn't have anything like this. Nothing like this. I think a lot of people will come here to watch Duquesne."

Eckenrode's return was delayed by two weeks. His plan to return for the Jan. 15 game against Dayton was halted after Eckenrode tested positive for Covid-19.

He was alarmed by the diagnosis, but persevered, nonetheless.

"Everything's fine, and my energy level is back," Eckenrode said. "The whole week [following the diagnosis], I didn't have any energy. I had my three shots and everything. I don't even know how I got it. But I got it."

After studying at Duquesne from 1946 to 1950 and graduating with a degree in business administration, he enlisted in the Air Force, where he served as a pilot for five years before returning to Pittsburgh.

He's spent his entire life in the South Hills region of Pittsburgh.

Rendulic, one of Eckenrode's 12 children, is grateful for the chance to spend moments like Saturday's game with her father.

"It's awesome. I'm very lucky," Rendulic said. "Very lucky to have him here. And he's still healthy [enough] to have fun."

Perhaps having 12 children is one reason

sity of Pittsburgh.

With both of them now over the age of 90, Eckenrode cherishes their long-standing friendship more each and every day.

What are the keys to maintaining good health for such an extended period of time? According to Eckenrode, there are a few prime reasons.

"We behaved ourselves," Eckenrode said, laughing. "We didn't smoke and drink."

During his college years, Eckenrode got the opportunity to watch Chuck Cooper, who became the first African American drafted into the National Basketball Association, play during his collegiate career at Duquesne. Cooper's time with the Dukes spanned the entire length of Eckenrode's college tenure.

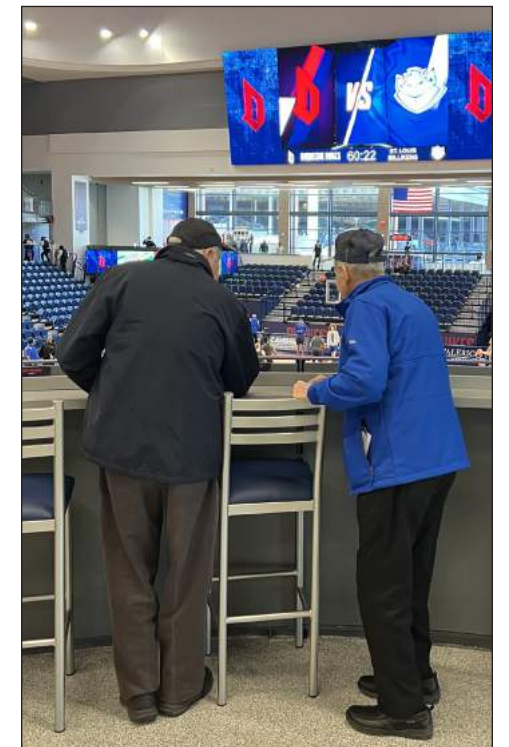
Cooper, whose legacy is now preserved within the arena's name, left a palpable impact on the relationship between integration and professional sports.

For Eckenrode, however, he couldn't foresee that history coming. He just enjoyed watching Cooper play basketball.

"I knew he was a good player, and we enjoyed watching him, but that part of it never entered my mind," Eckenrode said.

The way of life in Eckenrode's time in college drastically differs from the present landscape.

"We did commute, back and forth, from the South Hills," Eckenrode said. "Many, many times, we didn't have much money in our pockets, so what'd we do? We hitchhiked right here at the Liberty Bridge. And they took us home. If you had books, every-



COURTESY OF SUSAN RENDULIC

Jack Eckenrode (left) and Chal McCombs (right) take in the arena prior to the contest.

a piece of advice to students, both present and future, in order to help them make the most of their tenure at Duquesne.

"I would tell them to do what I did," Eckenrode said. "The fraternity was very active in activities within the school, like dances and things like that."

"If you're not doing that [regularly getting involved in on-campus student organizations], you're missing out on a lot of good activities."



ANDREW CUMMINGS | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Chal McCombs (grey), Jack Eckenrode (navy) and Susan Rendulic (pink) share a conversation on Saturday at the Duquesne men's basketball game against Saint Louis. Eckenrode, a 1950 graduate of DU, returned to his alma mater to watch a game in the renovated UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse.

MBB falls to Richmond, drops sixth straight

BRENTARO YAMANE

layout editor

After the Duquesne men's basketball team lost its final five games in January, February afforded the squad with the opportunity to get a fresh start heading into the season's final stretch.

Entering Tuesday night's home contest against Richmond, the Spiders had won their previous three Atlantic 10 Conference road games (at Fordham, La Salle and Rhode Island). That provided the Dukes with a chance to snap Richmond's streak.

Unfortunately, for Duquesne, things did not work out in its favor.

The Spiders fell behind early on the road but managed to come back and pull out a 74-57 win at the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse. Although the Spiders committed 14 turnovers, they were able to make their shots. They were 13-of-24 (54.2%) from 3-point range and 26-of-52 (50%) overall.

One of the obstacles that Duquesne has had a tough time overcoming this season is keeping a lead.

Despite holding an advantage that was as large as nine points (26-17) during the first half, the Dukes let the Spiders creep back into the game. With just over two minutes remaining in the half, Duquesne watched that nine-point edge turn into a two-point deficit when Richmond's Jacob Gilyard hit a 3-pointer to cap off a 15-4 run for the Spiders.

Duquesne's Toby Okani hit a jumper with 1:20 left to even the score at 32, but Richmond grabbed the momentum right back before heading into the locker room at halftime.

Richmond's Isaiah Wilson — a Pittsburgh native — stole the ball from Duquesne's Primo Spears and dished it off to Tyler Burton, who hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer to give the

Spiders a 35-32 advantage.

With game highs in both points (18) and rebounds (12), Burton finished the 17-point victory with a double-double.

At the beginning of the second half, it looked like Duquesne would stick around, as Tre Williams converted a layup just 19 seconds into the half to bring the deficit down to a single point.

After that scoring play, however, the Spiders used a 22-2 run that was not halted until the 11:24 mark to make the score 57-36 and put the game out of reach entirely. Richmond's largest lead was by 22 points (60-38) at the 10:57 mark of the second half.

In Duquesne's past five games, it has only averaged 55.8 points per game. Head Coach Keith Dambrot knows that the teams needs to score more points and hinted that the Dukes might need to add a player or two to provide more of a scoring surge.

"We got to keep developing guys. There's no question about that, but we have to add to what we have. We clearly don't have enough, right?" Dambrot said. "So clearly we don't have enough because this [Richmond] was the same team that we beat last year in the [A-10] tournament. Exactly the same team, right?"

"And we played pretty close with them most of the time we played them, you know, but tonight we played pretty good for only 16, 18 minutes."

With the Dukes having dropped their sixth in a row, the focus for Dambrot is shifting toward finding a way to get his players to overcome the adversity that they are dealing with.

"I thought we were better than this. Honestly, I really did," Dambrot said. "But we've had a lot of stuff that happened. And I think [with] a lot of stuff, the mentality has

affected us. When you lose as many of those close games as we lost in the way we lost them, emotionally, that's hard now."

After Tuesday's night game, Dambrot now has a record of 71-60 (.542) during his Duquesne tenure. Although it seems that this season has been a roller coaster, Dambrot continues to enjoy his job and is determined to find a way to get the program back to a position in which it can win games on a consistent basis.

"The school's been great," Dambrot said. "They've been good to me. They understand what we're trying to do, what we're trying to accomplish. That's all you can ever ask for from the people you work for."

"Believe me, it's not easy for them. They can get skittish. I get it. I wouldn't even

blame them, to be honest with you. I get it. That's what this world is."

Duquesne — currently 1-6 in A-10 action and 6-13 overall — will have a chance to break its losing streak on Saturday, when it travels to Richmond, Va., to take on VCU.

While things are looking tough for the team at the moment, Dambrot is committed to ensuring that the Dukes will continue to progress and refrain from relenting before the conference tournament begins in just over a month.

"Don't quit because, again, we all know this," Dambrot said. "We've all been through tough times, so you better learn, better learn how to handle them for the rest of your life because there's going to be another one and another one."



PETER BOETTGER | STAFF WRITER

Duquesne's Kevin Easley Jr. attempts to break out of a double team set up by Richmond's Grant Golden and Nick Sherod. Easley had six points, eight rebounds and three assists in the defeat.

WBB handles La Salle, downed by Dayton

SPENCER THOMAS

staff writer

The Duquesne women's basketball team was busy with a pair of Atlantic 10 Conference games this week, hosting La Salle on Sunday before traveling to Dayton on Wednesday.

Sunday was a day of milestones for Duquesne's Libby Bazalak. The graduate student from Kettering, Ohio, notched a triple-double and scored her 1,000th-career point to help lead the Dukes to a commanding 67-48 victory over the Explorers.

Despite Bazalak's career day, it was Tess Myers who sparked the Dukes early. Myers, — who finished with a team-high 20 points — nailed four shots from beyond the arc in the first half. Her four successful makes from deep in the first half were more than the Explorers had as a team (three).

After coming out for the second half with a 10-point (35-25) lead, the Dukes had enough energy to put the game away. Megan McConnell was able to snatch the ball from a La Salle player and fly to the other end for an easy fast-break layup on several occasions.

Her tenacious defense helped her finish

the contest with five steals, while also helping the Dukes boast an 18-0 advantage in fast-break points.

Burt singled out her performance.

"She loves to get up in you and play you really tight. And smile while she's doing it. She's annoying," Burt said, laughing.

The ball movement also separated the two teams, as Duquesne finished with a season-best 22 assists (compared to nine from La Salle).

"We needed the ball to hum," Burt said. "We needed to catch it in triple threat and make it move, attack space with a purpose and find the next pass."

As Bazalak approached her triple-double, a murmur came over a restless crowd each time she possessed the ball. Her teammates were eager to pass it back to her for the achievement.

Bazalak's all-important assist came when she passed the ball to Precious Johnson, who made a layup with just over one minute to go in the game. Bazalak received a round of applause from the fans and a miniature mobbing from her teammates.

Despite the encouraging performance from Bazalak, Burt's postgame comments also reflected a deep satisfaction with the performance at the other end of the floor.

"We had a really great game today," Burt said. "We defended probably the best we have all year. Our goal was to hold them to 59 on the defensive end."

The victory allowed Duquesne to take a three-game winning streak — something the team had accomplished just one other time so far this season — into Wednesday's game.

It briefly seemed like the Dukes would be able to shock the Flyers, who entered the game flashing a 16-3 record. Burt's continuous harping on the team's defensive performance was paying dividends early.

The Dukes held a 30-25 halftime lead and kept their five-point advantage entering the final quarter. However, the lineup ran out of gas, with only two players coming off of the bench in the entire game.

Dayton outscored Duquesne 17-6 in the final frame, with the Dukes failing to score in the final 3:43.

Dayton kept its offense hot, penetrating a tired defense en route to a 60-54 victory that saw the Flyers consistently cash in on jump shots and layups.

A glaring flaw in the Dukes' performance came on the boards. They were outrebounded 47-24, which led to them being outscored

32-20 in the paint and 15-0 on second-chance points.

Duquesne will look to avenge the loss on Saturday afternoon, when it hosts Fordham.



BRENTARO YAMANE | LAYOUT EDITOR

With 10 points, 10 assists and 11 rebounds, Libby Bazalak posted a triple-double on Sunday.

Duquesne student writes composition for band festival

ISABELLA ABBOTT
staff writer

Last Saturday afternoon, Duquesne Composition for Media major and horn player, Elizabeth Pompa, had her new composition, “Clepsydra,” performed during the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) festival in the Powers Center Ballroom.

Pompa said she was honored when her professor and conductor, Dr. James Gourlay, gave her the opportunity to have a live concert band perform her piece twice this year: once by post-secondary students and then again by high school students. It was played during the Duquesne University symphony band back in November, and during the Jan. 29 PMEA concert last weekend.

Gourlay is a leading performer,



A multi-talented student, Pompa has an equal fascination with writing and playing music.

teacher, music director and chief executive of Pittsburgh’s River City Brass.

Gourlay said he always likes to encourage students to express themselves musically, which is why he motivated Pompa to share her music with him.

“When I looked at Elizabeth’s music,” Gourlay said, “I immediately realized that she has enormous talent as a composer and a unique musical voice.”

The approximately seven-minute-long piece, consisting of 205 measures, was written in a week by Pompa back in August 2021. Even though editing for the composition was tedious, she said that the most challenging part is sitting down and “going with it.”

Pompa said she had many moments in her life where she wanted to give up and even took a break from music, not writing for a while and not wanting to go to college to pursue it, but she felt that it was something she had to do.

“I guess it’s just what I was born to do,” Pompa said.

Pompa started playing instruments at the young age of six and, during grades six through eight, taught herself a variety of different instruments: clarinet, trombone, French horn and flute. At 19, she now plays horn in the wind symphony orchestra, has written seven full compositions and has over 100 unfinished future projects.

“Sometimes,” Pompa said, “I come up with ideas that I could really use for one special piece.”

And one of those special pieces was “Clepsydra.”



COURTESY OF JOSEPH PHILLIPPI

Getting a head-start on her future career, Pompa was commissioned for the PMEA festival.

Although this piece started with no title and had parts missing until September, Pompa was inspired by the sound of a metronome making the “tick-tock” sound that brought her to the idea of a clock. And, since she didn’t want her piece to simply be named “clock,” she came to find the unique title of “Clepsydra.”

“I wanted a fancier word than clock,” Pompa said.

Clepsydra, or water clock, is an ancient time-measuring device worked by the gradual flow of water into or out of a vessel, according to Pompa.

This clock was the most accurate use of timekeeping for millennia, which made for the perfect name of her piece since the dripping of the water conveyed the notes throughout the composition. Thus, writing the piece worked like clockwork for Pompa.

At last week’s PMEA program, local high school musicians had a day and a half to learn the music which Pompa said they did remarkably well. And, after the festival finished, students came up to Pompa praising her work, leaving the Duquesne artist gleaming and ecstatic for her next performances.

Gourlay said he’s excited to see what else Pompa has to offer in her career as well.

“I’m really looking forward to seeing her as she develops as a composer and look forward to programming more of her work,” he said.

Pompa’s newly written composition, “Wolf Hunt,” is five minutes long and will be conducted by Gourlay. On Tuesday, April 12, the composition will be performed in the Power Center Ballroom by the Duquesne University Symphony Band.

CAMPUS
EVENTS

Student Organization Expo
Feb. 3 @ 11 a.m.

Go to the 2nd floor of the Union for a chance to get involved!

Salsa and Bachata Lesson
Feb. 3 @ 8 p.m.

Join the Duquesne Ballroom Association for dance lessons in the Power Center!

Moveable Feast
Feb. 4 @ 12 p.m.

Celebrate the closing of Founders Week with free snacks, games, prizes, raffles and more! Located on the 2nd and 3rd floor of the Union.

DPC DUNite:
Duquesne-Stuff-A-Bear!
Feb. 4 @ 9 p.m.

It’s that time of year again! Make your own stuffed animal at the NiteSpot for this year’s season of love. Supplies limited!

CAPRI'S
KIND WORDS

Seasons change and so do we

Embrace these foreign parts of yourself as they come and go!

It's not often that we can feel the growing pains of change, but we can still give it our all to make the process a smooth one.

We've heard it how many times: everything happens for a reason. Sometimes there isn't time to question why, or how, or when; however, we can recreate these moments for the better, inching closer to the life we've secretly been waiting for.

There is no shame in taking this process slowly, carefully and as precisely as you do. But when life pulls — don't pull back. Make sure to push forward to stay on track.

Your free time is your own. Your day is defined by you. This life before you is in your hands! Trust what is given and take a moment to decide what comes next. As we adapt to the world around us, make sure you're adapting to your world, too.

—Capri Scarcelli

Aquarius

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
PUNX #foreverwinter

Pisces

Am I funny?

(How about now?)

Aries

At what pont do we decide that corny is cool again. Let's try it say it with me: hashtag "swag."

Taurus

Are you there yet?

Gemini

My dog saw his shadow, can I go home now?

Cancer

You're charming, in a bags under the eyes, tye-dyed sweatshirt, talks out-of-breath kind of way.

Leo

Does your cat actually like me or am I just not talking right now?

Virgo

Emotional core: swirling tear drops around on your kitchen table <3

Libra

Incoming subliminal message: Dye your hair dye your hair dye your hair.

Scorpio

Record yourself doing a silly little jig and see how you feel after. Wait try again I didn't see it.

Sagittarius

My Giant Eagle outfits are sometimes cuter than when I actually go out.

Capricorn

You can't gatekeep Van Gogh!

Pretty Woman brings Hollywood to Pittsburgh

CAPRI SCARCELLI
a&e editor

Hello Hollywood and hello romance! Joining with Pittsburgh Cultural Trust through PNC's "Broadway to Pittsburgh," *Pretty Woman the Musical* makes its first pitstop at the Benedum Center following the show's national tour.

Bringing the iconic 90s rom-com to the stage, *Pretty Woman* encapsulates the vigorous energy of Vivian Ward, a hooker looking for a life of normalcy, and Edward Lewis, a businessman who takes a leap of faith to open his heart beyond his workload.

Played by up-and-coming

actress Olivia Valli and Tony Award-winning actor Adam Pascal, respectively, the duo pushes to grow into the best versions of themselves — quirks and all.

The show begins with a sunset-ombre backdrop, characters running around the Boulevard without a care. Vivian, who just squabbled with her best friend Kit De Luca over monetary deadlines, tries to seduce Edward for rent money. When Edward surprises her with a 6-day offer that she can't refuse, Vivian finds herself stuck between keeping their relationship business-casual and longing for something more.

The lyrics of the musical was witty enough to foreshadow parts

of the show, which was disguised well enough for the audience not to catch onto the juxtaposition between a seemingly unimportant park bench and the dreamy symbolism of a "white horse" to save the day.

The music itself reflected the pop scene of the 80s: very flashy, belty and improvisational as any good Madonna or Whitney Houston moment would be. Each song was individually memorable and unique — no number seemed to outshine the other.

The musical adaptation had humorous side-plots displayed well, such as Edward being afraid of heights or the bellhop boy obsessing over Vivian when Edward wasn't looking. The cheesy, slapstick nature of the acting had the whole audience whispering and grinning to one another.

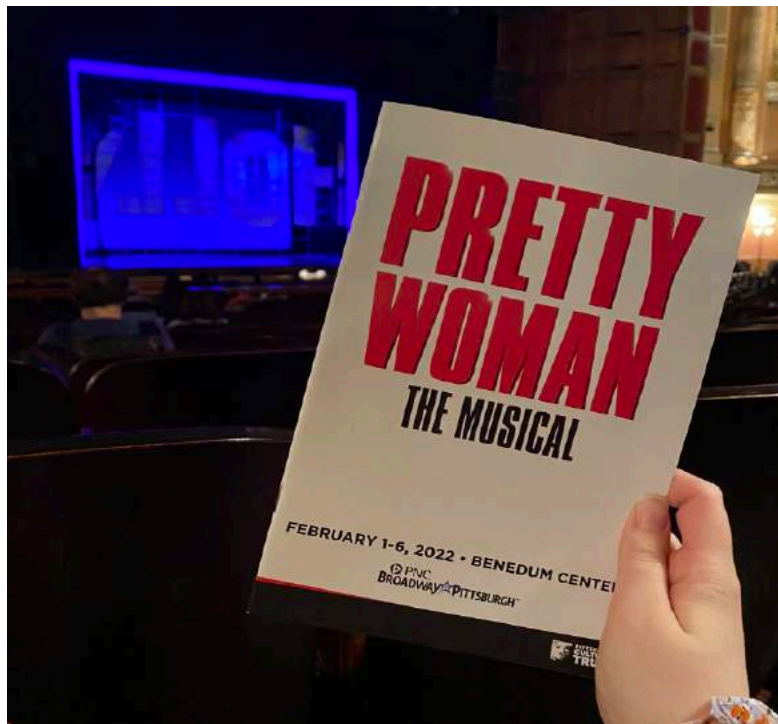
With sets ranging from the backstreets of Hollywood to preppy clothing stores and a fancy hotel, I found it clever that the technical production team used a pulley-system for their scene changes for a quick, efficient transition to the next whacky moment the characters go through. Blackouts were sudden and expertly timed to switch to the next whimsical encounter between the main characters.

Though small, the ensemble was featured graciously in the show, giving solo opportunities, costume changes and new character arcs throughout. Because of this consistent involvement, it became a little game to see which performer would take on what new role next. As soon as the



CAPRI SCARCELLI | A&E EDITOR

A packed audience filters out of the theater after final bows.



CAPRI SCARCELLI | A&E EDITOR

Jam-packed with raucous humor and fun, this musical adaptation is one you don't want to miss.

Dreamy film *Licorice Pizza* open for praise, critiques

ALICIA DYE
staff writer

Funny, charming and nostalgic is the best way to describe *Licorice Pizza*, directed and written by Paul Thomas Anderson, making it his first film since 2017's *Phantom Thread*.

The film released in select theaters on Nov. 26, 2021 and was followed by a nationwide release on Dec. 25, 2021. The film stars Alana Haim and Cooper Hoffman, with *Licorice Pizza* being both of their feature film debuts.

Haim especially shines in the film as she plays Alana Kane, a 25-year-old who starts off working for a photography company before she ends up working as a volunteer for a mayoral campaign. Haim makes sure she brings undeniable charm and likeability to her character, while also portraying the lost and confusing

time that is your mid-20s perfectly. Hoffman also gives a great first performance, playing a 15-year-old Gary Valentine who is a young actor and businessman who falls in love with Alana. Hoffman brings charm to his character as well as a strong sense of confidence. Haim and Hoffman both received Golden Globe nominations for their performances.

The film also stars big name actors Bradley Cooper, Sean Penn and Tom Waits, all who play minor characters who give Alana and Gary trouble throughout the film. Cooper's character, named Jon Peters, a real life movie producer, buys a waterbed from Gary's waterbed business and threatens to kill Gary if he messes up the waterbed. Sean Penn plays Jack Holden, a character based on William Holden, who is romantically interested in Alana, making Gary jealous.

The film's early 1970s setting in San Fernando, California creates a dreamy atmosphere for viewers, and looks stunning while doing it. There are shots of small stores in California, along with some shots of the rolling hills of California that are simply breathtaking. The camera movement helps with the setting too, as it mostly stays static throughout the film, forcing viewers to see every aspect of the western setting.

Anderson wrote and directed the film, and was co-cinematographer with Michael Bauman, who has worked on films such as *Iron Man*, *Nightcrawler*, *Training Day* and more on the film. Anderson's writing and direction shines through, as all of the dialogue sounds natural and is genuinely funny. The cinematography done by Anderson and Bauman also radiates as the film is truly beau-

tiful and has a dreamy look to it, while also being realistic of what the 1970s were to many.

While the film has received some criticism for the 10-year age gap between Alana and Gary, the characters' actions make it clear that the two are just friends. Although she does question if it is weird for her to be hanging out with a 15-year-old, Gary is obviously into Alana, making clear points to make her jealous and to show off to her.

"There's no line that's crossed, and there's nothing but the right intentions," Anderson said in a New York Times interview.

However, the two do share a kiss at the end, and the ending leaves the viewer wondering if Gary and Alana are entering a relationship, which many would see as crossing a line.

The film gives younger audiences



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Moving from music to film, Haim makes her debut as Alana Kane in the coming-of-age story.

a great glimpse of the 1970s: ugliness like homophobia, the 1973 oil crisis and misogyny included. While the age gap can be a turnoff for audiences, the film serves as a coming-of-age story for both Gary and Alana, and leaves audiences happy and wanting more.

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"I think what makes Jeopardy! so special is that, among all the quiz and game shows out there, ours tends to encourage learning."

WHO IS ALEX TREBEK?

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

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EDITORIAL
POLICY

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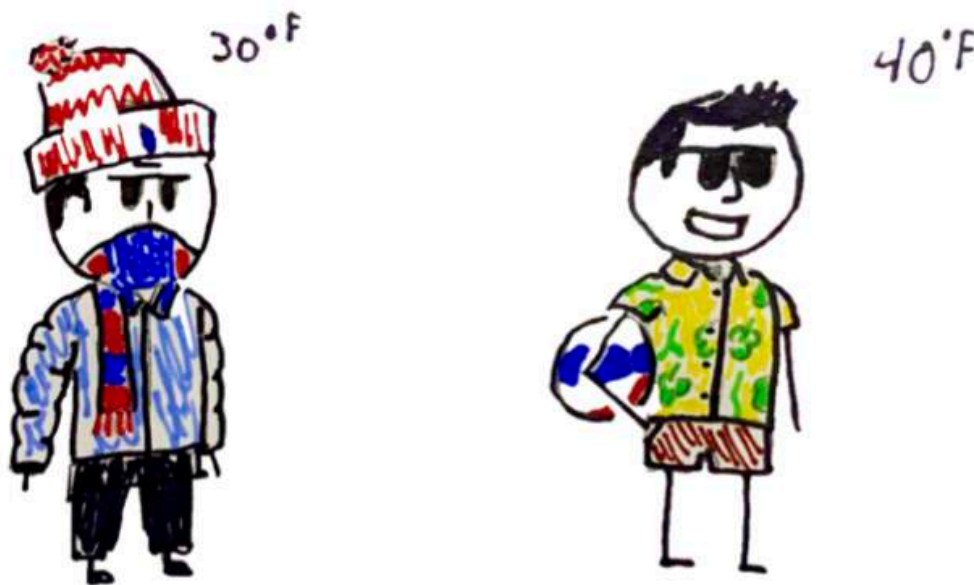
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PETER BOETTGER | STAFF COMIC ARTIST

An inspiration for fans of intellectualism: Who is Amy Schneider?

Ever since I can remember, "Jeopardy!" has been a huge part of my life. Every weekday, my mother, sister and I would get ready to eat dinner during "ABC World News Tonight with David Muir," and switch channels quickly while eating to watch Alex Trebek welcome us to another episode of unmatched intellectualism.

A lot of things on "Jeopardy!" have been changing these last few months, not just hosts, but many winners, as well. And then came along Amy Schneider, who made a historic run of 40 games.

Unfortunately, the engineering manager's run came to an end on Jan. 26, when she bet too high in the final Jeopardy! and lost, gracefully, might I add, to Rhone Talsma. He finished in first with \$29,600, while Schneider finished in second with \$19,600.

While the shocking end to Schneider's run is absolutely devastating to "Jeopardy!" fans around the country, her legacy and impact on the LGBTQ+ community and beyond outweighs the despondency.

Schneider, aside from historically surpassing James Holzhauer and Matt Amodio to sit behind Ken Jennings with most consecutive wins under her belt, is also an openly transgender woman; The first to make it to these high ranks, and also to qualify for the "Jeopardy!" Tournament of Champions.

She is a role model for women, trans women and everyone in between — not to mention she got a question about Olivia Rodrigo correct. Iconic!

But besides her incredible knowledge of modern pop music, what I, and many oth-

ers, loved about Schneider was that she was able to both call attention to, and cast aside, her transness. We were always aware of it, and she made it known, but it was secondary to the game — she was unapologetically herself, and let her smarts do the talking.

Schneider has said that she initially downplayed being transgender on the show because she didn't want it to be exclusively what she was



ZOE STRATOS
opinions editor

known for, but her impact could not be downplayed, nonetheless.

"I am a trans woman, and I'm proud of that fact, but I'm a lot of other things, too," Schneider wrote on Twitter; However, being transgender has become a large part of her Jeopardy! journey, and she hasn't avoided it.

But the inspiration for members of the LGBTQ+ community is only part of the importance of her run. "Jeopardy!" has been on the air since 1964, with the median age of viewers at approxi-

mately 64 years old, according to an Ad Age report. Schneider's run has also opened the gates for the country's older, more conservative population to see someone unlike themselves at the forefront of popular media.

It shows that gender non-conformity isn't something to be afraid of or angry at, because Schneider is just like every other contestant. Dressed in her signature loose curls and necklace of pearls each episode, she competed — and won — with humility, not calling attention to her transness.

Not only that, but her personality shined each time Ken would speak with her after the first commercial break of each episode. One of which, she admitted her competition hype song is "Lose Yourself" by Eminem.

She is charismatic, witty and full of fun stories anyone can relate to, besides being an unbelievably intelligent "Jeopardy!" contestant. I can only wish.

Although the legendary gameshow and legendary contestant may not make a seismic shift in our culture often stuck in its ways about transgender individuals, Schneider's run taught us all a few things, whether part of the LGBTQ+ community or not.

We're always excited to learn about new things on the show, whether it's edible rhyme time, hodgepodge, the Roosevelts or 19th century composers.

But Amy Schneider shows you can learn from those around you, no matter who they are, what they look like or what they believe. Everyone has an equal right to knowledge.

STAFF
EDITORIALBook banning:
0 out of 5 stars

With many industries pushing for an increase in diversity, educational institutions in the U.S. are moving in the opposite direction.

Critical race theory has been in constant discussion recently as school districts, some located in Pittsburgh, remove important resources from student access. Schools are removing books for "containing critical race theory," but they should not have that authority.

This month, a school library in Katy, Texas, recently banned author Jerry Craft's "Class Act" and "New Kid."

Craft's official website said the companion books outline the life of middle-schooled Jordan Banks as he starts over in a new school "where diversity is low and the struggle to fit in is real."

When these stories are ignored, it ultimately gives the message that they are not important for children. But they are. When taught in the right context, books about these unrecognized perspectives provide a valuable learning experience.

Are proponents of these book bannings scared that fictional writing will significantly affect children's ideas about themselves?

According to Maria Trent, a published scholar in the Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, "Children...experience personally mediated racism early in their schooling, which may be internalized and ultimately affect their interactions with others."

Banning children's books from schools will not prevent children from encountering racism early in their lives. In fact, banning books negatively influences children's and educator's abilities to practice free speech and rightly navigate their own experiences.

In the 1982 Supreme Court ruling on Board of Education v. Pico, Justice William Brennan wrote that taking books off of library shelves could violate students' First Amendment rights, adding that "Local school boards may not remove books from school libraries simply because they dislike the ideas contained in those books."

Arizona State English professor Sybil Durand stated that "banning books about controversial issues is akin to keeping silent about the fact that young people face difficult issues in their daily lives."

No single government or community should be given the authority to censor books. In this age of sensitivity to diverse backgrounds, children must learn the value of their words and actions.

When children read about the lives of characters, they are given a chance to learn empathy for the experiences of other people or relate the characters to their own lives.

In the future, books discussing racism should remain available to students for their value in "critical race theory," not regardless of it.

Diversifying Democracy: Appointing a new justice

ZACHARY PETROFF
staff columnist

Last week, Justice Stephen Breyer announced that he would be stepping down from the Supreme Court, allowing President Joe Biden to nominate a new Supreme Court justice. Stephen Breyer's decision to retire allows (potentially) the liberals to maintain a seat in an already conservative-leaning Supreme Court.

Breyer concluded his retirement press conference on a usual note.

He told a country that has been steadily regressing due to partisan divisions and overwhelming culture wars that he is optimistic that our country is going to be "alright."

He is correct. Even when we stumble, our nation's true resilience relies on our diversity.

Stephen Breyer, a Bill Clinton appointee in 1994, was a moderate liberal. He has been progressive in regards to social and civil rights issues, most notably for his same-sex marriage vote, his opposition to Louisiana's abortion law and his dissent on the democracy-killing court case of *Citizens United v. FEC*.

Looking to fulfill one of his campaign promises, the president is going to nominate the first Black woman to the highest court in the land. Vegas has the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson as the strong frontrunner.

Despite a world where ev-

erything is hyper-partisan and seeded with roots of misinformation and ill intentions, this nomination is set up to be less eventful than previous nominations.

The conservative side of politics have already started their talking points. They are making loud — and not-so-subtly racist — remarks that Biden only looking at Black, female candidates is somehow not democratic. They will find creative ways to once again turn liberal politics into a direct threat to the ever-so struggling plight of the white man.

It is also worth noting that overrated conservative folk hero Ronald Reagan also made a campaign pledge to nominate the court's first female justice. A promise he fulfilled with the appointment of Sandra Day O'Connor.

Democrats have the tie breaking vote in the Senate. If party lines hold-up as expected, this nomination process will likely mirror that of Biden's current tenure: uneventful with an overstretching, yet feeble attempt to please rabid conservative voices.

As uninspiring as it appears, this will likely be the correct choice for the nation.

The Supreme Court is set up as one of the least democratic institutions of the American republic. Supreme Court justices are not elected; They are nominated. The route to a nomination is painfully unclear, allowing for tom-foolery on both sides of the aisle and providing

ample opportunity for the hyper-partisans to fully display the ridiculousness and hollowness of the nomination process.

We have witnessed examples of this in recent history.

After the passing of one of the horsemen to the American apocalypse, Justice Antonin Scalia, during the Obama administration, the Republican-led Senate guided by grave digger of democracy, Mitch McConnell, refused to allow the properly qualified and politically moderate nomination of Merrick Garland even go to a vote.

The lack of constitutional guidance has allowed Republicans to make up their own rules, ignoring precedent and using diversion tactics to hijack the process. The non-popular vote winner Donald Trump would take office and appoint three Supreme Court justices, including alleged sexual-assaulter and very under-qualified Brett Kavanaugh. He would be the center of one of the most embarrassing nomination processes in all of American history.

Thank goodness these are life-long appointments...

The significance of nominating a Black woman to the highest court should not go unnoticed.

In a world almost specifically designed against women, especially women of color, the nomination of a Black woman is critical to this nation's prosperity.

The addition of a Black woman will bring a level of perspective that is often for-



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

Looking to fulfill one of his campaign promises, the president said he is going to nominate the first Black woman to the Supreme Court.

gotten or ignored.

There will be talk about how it is "unfair" or "not right" to specifically look for a Black woman. They will use terms like "the most" qualified or "best for the job."

The roots of these arguments are hypocritical, ridiculous and take away from the success of the future of this nation in order to placate the increasingly sensitive ego of white men. Picking from a pool of qualified Black women to give a voice to a severely under-represented portion of our population is long overdue.

"Picking the best candidate regardless of race" is a disingenuous statement, mostly being spewed by people in power — usually white, and male...and rich. One's background is an essential part of any resume. There have been a

plethora of studies that show a direct correlation to an ethnically and gender diverse staff to the success of a company.

We are strongest when listening to voices and ideas that we are not aware of. The secret to America's success — which tends to get lost with all the loud voices interrupting our every thought at every moment — is our ability to come together. Every notable monumental achievement the U.S. has experienced occurred because of our ability to embrace our uniqueness and accept and value everyone in this country.

We accomplish very little when we manufacture and feed divergence.

The strength of this country relies on our ability to be diverse. Diversity leads to compromise. Compromise leads to growth. Growth leads to success.

Tom Brady's scandal doesn't outweigh his greatness

LUKE HENNE
sports editor

After completing one of the most-prolific careers in National Football League history, quarterback Tom Brady called it quits after 22 seasons when he announced his retirement on Tuesday.

Despite being littered with some controversy, his career is still one of the greatest the professional sports world has ever seen. And, quite frankly, it's tough to say that Brady's shortcomings overshadow the dominance of his two-plus-decade tenure in the NFL.

Ten Super Bowl appearances. Seven Super Bowl victories. Five Super Bowl MVP awards. Three NFL regular-season MVP awards..

There's plenty more accolades for the former member of the New England Patriots (20 seasons, six Super Bowl victories) and Tampa Bay Buccaneers (two seasons, one Super Bowl victory), but listing any more would be exhausting an already-apparent notion: no one has had this type of career.

Again, however, that prominence hasn't come without issues.

Brady's Patriots were at the center of the "Spygate" incident on Sept. 9, 2007, in which members of the

organization were punished for videotaping signals from the New York Jets' defensive coaching staff.

In that same season, the Patriots completed a perfect 16-0 regular season. However, they were knocked off by the New York Giants in Super Bowl XLII.

Perhaps, at least for those who try to discount New England's dominance since the turn of the century, justice was served.

Nearly a decade later, Brady found himself tangled up in the "Deflategate" incident. During the AFC Championship Game on Jan. 18, 2015, Brady was accused of having game-used footballs deflated. In that victory, the Patriots dismantled the Indianapolis Colts 45-7 before beating the Seattle Seahawks two weeks later in Super Bowl XLIX.

Was discipline appropriate? Yes. Did his actions make a difference? Probably not.

The Patriots won by 38 points. Is it realistic to think that non-deflated footballs could've helped Indianapolis score an additional six times? No, it's not.

Although his punishment, which came in the form of a four-game suspension, was to be implemented at the start of the 2015 regular season, Brady appealed and won.

However, the suspension was reinstated in 2016, forcing him to miss the first four games of that season. The Patriots went 3-1 in his absence.

How did Brady respond once he returned to action?

In the final 12 games of that regular season, the Patriots won 11, beating opponents by an average of 14.8 points per game in that stretch.

Come playoff time, the Patriots again found themselves in Super Bowl LI against the Atlanta Falcons.

With New England trailing 28-3 in the third quarter, Brady found a way to lead his Patriots back to what became the largest comeback in Super Bowl history, and the Patriots won 34-28 in overtime.

The historic performance helped Brady earn one of his five Super Bowl MVP awards.

Talk about the ultimate revenge. Again, the action that Brady was reprimanded for made sense.

However, something so minimal should not outweigh a career this memorable, especially when other NFL stars like Tyreek Hill (who pleaded guilty to domestic assault and battery by strangulation of his then-pregnant girlfriend in 2014) are glorified on a weekly basis.

I didn't think this would be the note that Brady went out on.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

After 22 seasons in the NFL, seven-time Super Bowl champion Tom Brady will no longer step foot on a field as a quarterback after announcing his retirement.

Trailing the Los Angeles Rams 27-3 in the third quarter of Tampa Bay's NFC Divisional Round post-season game on Jan. 23, Brady pulled off what would be unthinkable for most players and teams. For him, especially considering the comeback in Super Bowl LI, it felt like an expectation that he would lead a comeback.

Brady led the Buccaneers all the way back from 24 points down to even the score at 27 with 42 seconds left in the game.

A 55-yard touchdown throw from Brady minutes earlier to make it 27-20 made one thing very apparent: Brady still had plenty left in the tank.

However, the Rams — who will

compete in Super Bowl LVI at their own SoFi Stadium on Feb. 13 — quickly marched down the field and used a 30-yard field goal as time expired to fend off Brady and Tampa Bay's monstrous comeback.

Little did we know that this would be the last time Brady the player ever walked off of a football field.

In Pittsburgh, it might be fairly controversial to take such a stance. Regardless, I feel no shame in saying that I will always be appreciative of what Brady did for the game of football.

It's unlikely that we'll ever see anyone match his level of success.

I hope that you appreciated his career. I know that I sure did.

Led by the Spirit

Spiritans celebrate 150 years as a U.S. religious congregation

EMMA POLEN
features editor

Founder's Week is officially underway, and this year there is greater significance behind the celebration.

In addition to celebrating our school's founders, Duquesne is participating in a nation-wide acknowledgment of the 150-year anniversary of the U.S. Spiritan Congregation.

Duquesne plays a special part in this event as the only school of higher education still under the Spiritans' name in the U.S. Founders' Week is just the beginning of a larger congratulatory celebration.

The Spiritans' 150th anniversary began in January 2022, with the start of the new liturgical year, and it will continue through Pentecost of next year (May 28, 2023).

For 150 years in the U.S., the Spiritans have shared their mission through educational and pastoral ministry.

Tom White, Duquesne University's archivist and curator of special collections, is the resident Spiritan historian for Duquesne.

At the Spiritans' arrival in 1870s Pittsburgh, White said, "you had an increasing number of Catholic immigrants."

As the immigrant population grew, the Catholic Church needed assistance creating a school for the children of new immigrant families.

"They wanted something that could serve the immediate needs of the community here [in Pittsburgh]," White said.

The founding Spiritans, led by the Rev. Joseph Strub, began the school "on a shoestring," White said. They had very little resources at their beginning, and not many students, either.

The Spiritans' educational facility moved locations from the top floor of a bakery on Wiley Avenue to the structure of Old Main at the crest of the Bluff, White said, where the Spiritan fathers built the bricks themselves.



COURTESY OF SPIRITAN CAMPUS MINISTRIES

The Spiritans' anniversary theme follows an important part of their mission: "Led by the Spirit."

Since their arrival in the U.S., the Spiritans have maintained their ministerial values.

According to White, the priests in administrative, teaching and coaching positions did anything they could to assist students in coming to Duquesne.

"They [Spiritans] would always find a way for those students to get here," White said. Students would sometimes shovel snow or cut the grass if they were unable to pay tuition for a semester.

Today, the Provincial of the U.S. Spiritan Congregation of the Holy Spirit, the Rev. Donald McEachin, shared the ways in which the Spiritans continue their ministry.

"The idea of service to marginalized populations is certainly one of our focal points in all of our educational [facilities]," McEachin said.

McEachin served as Duquesne University Chaplain in the 1990s, and he spoke about the unique opportunities students have to participate in meaningful ministry while they attend this Catholic university.

"One of the principle interests that we have at Duquesne is fostering a sense of world vision in the students that come to Duquesne and a sense of community service," McEachin said.

Just as the Spiritans set out to educate an under-served population in the 1870s, Duquesne encourages students today to lead in a way that serves everyone in the community.

This year, the Spiritans' anniversary follows the theme of "Led by the Spirit where the need is greatest," which speaks to their work nationally as well as internationally.

The Rev. Lazarus Langbiir is an administrative assistant at the U.S. Spiritans' headquarters in Bethel Park.

Langbiir shared how the Spiritans are also closely involved elsewhere in Pittsburgh, and around the entire globe.

"One of our charism is to be available, always available, to the church," Langbiir said, "to go to where the need is the greatest, where the church finds it difficult to get workers or wherever the church needs us."

In Pittsburgh, the Spiritans serve beyond the Duquesne community. Langbiir described a program called Fishes and Loaves that serves the elderly population of Hazelwood.

"We go out and buy...groceries and bring [them] over to Hazelwood Towers where seniors live," Langbiir said. For many living in the development, there is no easy way to get the food they need.

"Outside of the U.S., we are in at least 60 countries," Langbiir said. The Spiritans are present on every habitable continent in the world.

Langbiir is studying for his doctorate in the Communication and Rhetoric department at Duquesne.

As a Duquesne student himself, Langbiir could attest to the connection of the Spiritans' current educational advocacy to its historical tradition.

"It's education for the mind and Spirit, so we offer holistic education," Langbiir said. "When we receive our students, we are not just thinking about their intellectual development. We are also thinking about their spiritual and human development as well."

The Spiritans welcome everyone into their ministry, whether through becoming a Spiritan lay person or a Spiritan friend.

Either way allows for any community member to "embrace spirituality" through meaningful service, regardless of their place in life, Langbiir said.

"The 150 years anniversary is expected to...remind all of us of the legacy of the Spiritans in the U.S. and then also to celebrate those who continue to do their best to keep the Spiritan vocation and order alive," Langbiir said.

After Founders' Week, the U.S. Spiritan Congregation will continue to celebrate this significant anniversary with special events throughout the year. Along with multiple city and nation-wide retreats, The Spiritans' 150-year Anniversary Gala will be held April 6.

Adda Coffee & Tea House serves up the piping hot tea Downtown

EMMA POLEN
features editor



EMMA POLEN | FEATURES EDITOR

Adda Coffee offers unique tea and coffee options.

Coming up in mid-February is the grand opening of Adda Coffee & Tea House's newest Downtown storefront.

The new location, the fifth in the Pittsburgh area, will be at 725 Penn Ave, across from the Benedum Center. Adda's management team hopes to open the week of Feb. 20.

Adda brings a specialty experience for Pittsburghers through their attention to customer needs, promotion of local creators and the unique drink menu.

Justin Seaman is Adda's director of operations.

Adda meets the needs of the population it interacts with. Besides typical coffee shop pastry and snack items, Seaman says the Downtown locations offer groceries and fresh foods.

"There's no grocery store, really, for people to be able to use and other conveniences, too, for the busy working population Downtown," Seaman said.

When the weather gets warmer, Adda is looking forward to hosting more regular events in its outdoor space at the North

Side location.

Among Adda's most popular events are High Tea and Sunday Showcases.

High Tea is held during the summer and described by Seaman to be like a very traditional High Tea. The event features multiple courses of homemade bite-size delicacies served alongside specialty beverages.

"It's just a really fun opportunity for us to be able to kind of do something out of the ordinary," Seaman said. "[It] gives our staff the opportunity to work and play around with some great teas and new drinks. And it's really popular. We sell out consistently each year for the whole season."

High Teas at Adda are a great destination for groups of friends, dates or even college students giving their parents a city tour. The 2022 schedule for High Teas will be up on their website by the end of February.

Sunday Showcases are a weekly opportunity to highlight local artists. Adda has featured jazz and acoustic musicians, but they also do poetry readings and art gallery exhibits.

"I think what we really love at Adda is an emphasis on local craftsmen, local artists, local musicians, local art, all that great stuff," Seaman said.

When a local business reaches out about be-

ing featured in-store, Adda's team is always willing to include and encourage new creators.

"We are always open for new ideas and always love having programming events scheduled," said Seaman.

Adda is known for its interesting drink menu.

The "fun and playful" drink menu, Seaman said, is created by Adda's in-house beverage manager. Adda is also influenced by Indian culture, which has inspired a tea menu more extensive than most other coffee shops in the area.

Adda shuffles through an interesting seasonal menu. Their featured drinks in February include a Sweetheart latte and a Twin Flame latte that combine flavorful tea and coffee flavors.

"We love getting creative with things as well for different drinks specials and non-alcoholic options for people," Seaman said.

The new Downtown location will be the closest one to Duquesne's campus, and Seaman is looking forward to the possibilities for welcoming current Adda customers and newcomers alike.

"It's going to be a really beautiful space with all types of great conveniences for people who live and work in Downtown, as well as a lot of our awesome drinks menu that everyone's come to expect from that as well," Seaman said.

The Duquesne Duke

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