University considers altering mask requirements

LUKE HENNE  
sports editor

With the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently updating its guidance on wearing masks to combat the spread of Covid-19, it’s expected that masking while on Duquesne’s campus will no longer be required in most circumstances, starting soon.

In a release sent to students and faculty on March 4, the university said that it will likely “no longer require masks to be worn indoors, starting Monday, March 21, 2022, assuming Allegheny County’s low transmission rate remains low.

“The [Duquesne] Health and Safety Committee will continue to follow county and campus data closely. If transmission rates or other risk factors increase, the university may reinstate preventive measures.”

Liam Belleville, a student majoring in information systems, isn’t sold on the timing of when the mandate would be dropped.

“I like the idea of removing the mandate for the vaccinated as Covid numbers continue dropping. Covid isn’t just going to disappear overnight, but we want to get back to some semblance of normal,” Belleville said. “I think the idea of removing the mandate for the vaccinated was a good idea, but I think the timing of it is a little off.”

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Mary Liz Flavin
news editor

Pittsburgh has the second largest St. Patty’s Day Parade in the nation, and the brass band, in conjunction with DU Public Safety and school of music faculty, shared their Duquesne Irish pride with the community along the entire parade route.

On Saturday, March 12, Pittsburgh's streets were lined with people dressed in green, white and gold as the St. Patrick's Day parade took place. This 150-year-old tradition was back in full swing after the last two years were canceled due to Covid-19. As the Pittsburgh parade committee says, the parade continues on through “rain, snow or shine,” and this year was no exception with snowy conditions.

The parade featured many organizations such as Irish step dancers, military members, community organizations and bands - including Duquesne's very own Brass Band. James Gourlay, director of bands at Duquesne, was approached by organizers of the St. Patrick’s Day parade to see if any of the groups that he conducts would be interested in taking part in the parade.

According to Gourlay, on the day of the performance many students from the Brass Band were excited, however they faced some challenges along the way, specifically the cold.

“We had a great time, a time for building up team spirit, camaraderie and sheer fun. The parade was quite long, so we all had ‘jelly legs’ at the end. Especially me! I played the tuba,” Gourlay said. “Also we were really, really cold. It was so cold that the valves on some of the brass instruments actually froze and couldn’t be moved.”

Other Duquesne students who walked in the parade agreed that although the parade conditions made it a challenge to play, they had good experiences nonetheless. Donny White, a music education student, played the flugelhorn.

“I think the band performed very well once we got warmed up,” White said. “Dr. Gourlay was counting us off from the tuba line in the back of the band. It was hard to hear him because of the volume of the crowd. At one point he counted us off and we didn’t hear, only the tubas played.”

Along their route the band played the classic Irish march, “Star of Erin” by Gerry Horabin.

see PARADE — page 3
Reacting to changes; "It's time for masks to go away now, but maybe not permanently"

Mary Liz Flavin | News editor

SACNAS hosts charity dodgeball tournament

Mary Liz Flavin | News editor

POLICE BRIEFS

Monday, March 7-
A student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct after being caught with possession of a small amount of marijuana and paraphernalia in the Duquesne Towers residential facility.

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 hammondcd@duq.edu.

COVID-19 NUMBERS

SCAN HERE FOR COVID-19 DATA

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of surge hits the campus.
Abby Lanzelotti, who majors in secondary English education and is currently student teaching at the Pittsburgh Science and Technology Academy in Oakland, is opposed to the mandate potentially being dropped.

"I was just in Mamma Mia! at the Genesius Theater, and there was a huge breakout of Covid among the cast after spending two rehearsals using clear masks," Lanzelotti said. "So I don't even want to think about the rise in Covid cases if the mandate was dropped for the whole university."

Although Lanzelotti lives off campus and doesn't have any actual classes during her student-teaching period, she often comes in close contact with those who do attend classes on campus.

"I don't want there to be more of an opportunity for Covid to reach my apartment and put myself or the students that I teach every day in danger," Lanzelotti said.

The date in which the mandate would be removed falls one week after classes resumed following spring break (March 14). This would allow for a week in which the university "encourages individuals, regardless of symptom status – to take a Covid test" following the return to campus.

For the duration of the week, Covid tests will be "widely available on campus" so that the university can "establish a baseline and assess the current transmission rate before implementing any changes to [their] current requirements."

Nate Pearson, an occupational therapy student, thinks that it's "time for masks to go away now, but maybe not permanently."

"I think that we should fluctuate masking based on CDC and Allegheny County guidance," Pearson said. "If the county is considered a green zone, and the CDC suggests it, then we should have no masks, but [they should] be able to bring them back if the county is designated as a yellow or red high-transmission area.

"I do think it's time, though, if we are following the science and CDC suggestions right now."

In the release, the university explained that "some faculty have suggested that professors and other instructors should be permitted to require masks in classes, at their discretion," due in part to the variety of class sizes and offerings. The committee, the body ultimately responsible for making the decision, is reviewing and contemplating this possibility.

Mark Frisch, an associate professor and the chair of the modern languages and literature department, said that his department "will follow the university policy."

"If we have flexibility in deciding, we will not have a departmental policy," Frisch said. "I will leave it up to the individual professor."

Frisch said that he's glad that Duquesne is reconsidering the long-standing mandate.

"Considering the Centers for Disease Control's current guidelines, I think some change in the university's policy is in order unless cases start to spike," Frisch said.

Dawson Green, a pharmacy student, believes that things have reached the point where the choice to mask should be left up to the individual.

"I remember my sophomore year, I stayed home because I was so nervous to get Covid due to my asthma," Green said. "This year, though, being vaccinated and wearing masks during class has helped me feel more secure in class and being on campus.

"However, I think there is a point in time when this mandate needs to be lifted, and it is on the individual to choose if they wish to wear one or not."

Green also added that "if cases begin to spike at Duquesne, I can see a reason to implement [the mandate] again."

"I personally do not mind wearing a mask most of the time and do not have a problem with it because I know the purpose is important," Green said. "But there are times when it can get annoying after a while."

The release also indicated, "Masks will remain available in offices and in Health Services for individuals who need them. Unvaccinated and vulnerable individuals are strongly encouraged to continue to wear masks.

"Individuals exhibiting symptoms should not go to class or to in-person work, should get tested and should wear a mask until results are known."

Mary Liz Flavin | News editor

Teams of five or six went against one another in a tournament style match. Each round lasted five minutes and ties resulted in a two-minute sudden-death round. The face-offs continued until it got to the final four, and then the winner.
Duquesne organizations keep their eye on the ball

MARY LIZ FLAVIN
news editor
see BALL — page 2

hit above the shoulder and lastly, be safe. The rounds went in five minute intervals until the final winner was determined. If there was a tie, then the round went into a two minute sudden death round.

Delta Chi Dance, Alpha Phi, Alpha Sigma Tau, SACNAS, field hockey, Frick Frat, Delta Chi V Foundation, Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) and Tri Beta all competed during the dodgeball event on the fourth floor of the Power Center.

Emma Tobias, a member of Alpha Sigma Tau, was determined at the beginning of the rounds that her team would be successful. After a practice round in which her team got out, Alpha Sigma Tau had a second chance to redeem itself.

“We are going to go out there strong and go out even stronger. Win or lose, we’re going to do it,” Tobias said.

Many teams shared this same sentiment as the game progressed. The main component of the tournament was to have fun and support a good cause.

Sara Hernandez, president of SACNAS, was the primary organizer of the event alongside Pa-biola DeJesus, vice president of SACNAS. Together they made sure the dodgeball game ran smoothly.

“One of our main missions is to bring the community together to spread cultural awareness, and what better way to get them involved than a fun, light-hearted game like dodgeball?” Hernandez said. “We made this game so that all the organizations could come together. It means a lot that people showed up and wanted to be a part of this.”

According to DeJesus, it wasn’t always smooth sailing. At one point in time only six teams had signed up, but over the course of two days four to five more teams joined in on the action.

Although all the teams competed their hardest, Delta Chi Dance ended up victorious in a close face-off between themselves and the Delta Chi V Foundation.

Tori Young, a supporting member of Delta Chi Dance, was excited that her team won and was even happier that they raised the most for Dance Marathon, a student-led fundraiser that supports patients at local Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals and UPMC Children’s Hospital.

“We were playing for Dance Marathon and all of the money gets donated to UPMC Children’s Hospital,” Young said. “I am so proud of them because $300 doesn’t seem like a ton but for us, it makes a big difference for the kids in the hospital.”

Those who didn’t win still had an enjoyable time watching and playing the game. Jarrett Klunk, a member of Frick Frat, left the game in good spirits.

“It’s been a good game, we didn’t tie our shoelaces right but it’s going well. I wore my Magicarp socks and Captain America mask for the occasion,” Klunk said.

After rounds of close calls, hits and misses at the end of the day, everyone was a winner. Many of Duquesne’s organizations on campus came together to support a good cause as well as compete in a low-stakes game of dodgeball.

Brass Band takes on the cold

see PARADE — page 1

Julia Lawrence, music education major, overcame a few difficulties while performing on the trumpet.

“I had bad luck with my valves freezing. Due to extremely cold temperatures, most of our instruments were flat,” Lawrence said.

Despite the challenges, Lawrence said she remembered a group of Pitt students shouted that they loved the trumpet. Lawrence said she considered it a highlight of the parade.

It wasn’t just the band that made the parade a success, first-year graduate student of music performance; Allen Fry, was responsible for organizing the banners for the trailer and candy to be given to the crowd.

“It was fun for all of us to hear the spectators cheering us on as we marched by,” Fry said. “We hope to do it again next year and grow Duquesne’s presence in the parade.

Gourlay shared the same sentiment as he guided the band through the parade, lending a hand with his tuba.

“The parade was a great opportunity to get the Duquesne name before the public and for the newly-formed brass band to be seen and heard. The students who took part will certainly have something to remember for the rest of their lives and it was great to hear alumni cheering us on,” Gourlay said.

Alternative St. Patrick’s Day Events

Thursday March 17
2 p.m. St. Patrick’s Day Sweet Escape (Assumption Lobby)
7-9 p.m. St. Patrick’s Day Game Show Night (105 College Hall)
8 p.m. Shamrock Shakes St. Patrick’s History (Assumption sub-level lounge)

Friday March 18
9-11 p.m. DPC DUNite: DIY Self-Care Night - body scrubs, muscle-relief gel packs, all natural lotion and more. Free eyebrow threading and chair massages included

Saturday March 19
12 p.m. St. Patrick’s Day CRAFTernoon (Assumption Lounge)
7 p.m. St. Patrick’s Day BINGO (Towers MPR)

Sunday March 20
11:30-5 p.m., Grove City Outlet Trip
Bus departs outside the Student Union at 11:30 a.m. and leave from Grove City at 4 p.m. Sing up in the Center for Student Involvement from 8:30-4:30 p.m. this week for a $5 transportation cost. Email duactivities@duq.edu for more information
SPORTS

NCAA Tournament features wide-open field

Benjamin Gottschalk
staff writer

As the month of March quickly passes by, college basketball fans across the country know what is soon to come. The 2022 NCAA Tournament is just about ready to take center stage across the entire country. This year’s field features many high-quality teams, players and coaches that will ensure this season’s tournament is entertaining and open for a handful of teams to win.

Most notably, the Big Ten Conference’s qualifiers are loaded with prolific scorers like Ohio State’s E.J. Liddell (averaging 22.6 points/game), Iowa’s Keegan Murray (23.6 points/game), Wisconsin’s Johnny Davis (19.7 points/game), Illinois’ Kofi Cockburn (21.1 points/game) and Purdue’s Trevion Williams (21.4 points/game). The tournament is entertaining and open for a handful of teams to win.

In the Southeastern Conference, keep an eye on No. 9-seeded Tennessee. The Volunteers feature a dynamic scoring duo of Kennedy Chandler (13.8 points/game) and Santiago Vescovi (13.4 points/game). Tennessee, which has won 12 of its last 13 games entering the tournament, will square off with No. 14-seeded Longwood in Indianapolis on Thursday.

Reversing back to the Big Ten, a team to watch is No. 4-seeded Illinois. Led by Cockburn (who also averages 10.6 rebounds/game), the Fighting Illini are looking to average a second-round exit as No. 1 seed in last year’s tournament. Illinois will do battle with No. 13-seeded Chattanooga on Friday at PPG Paints Arena.

First-round games that will be played in Pittsburgh on Friday include: No. 7-seeded Ohio State vs. No. 10-seeded Loyola of Chicago, No. 2-seeded Villanova vs. No. 15-seeded Delaware and No. 5-seeded Houston vs. No. 12-seeded UAB.

While Arizona gives much of the love and attention in the Pac-12, No. 4-seeded UCLA is flying under the radar. As a No. 11 seed, the Bruins went from First Four to Final Four and took Gonzaga to overtime in the national semifinal before falling on a buzzer beater from the Bulldogs’ Jalen Suggs. The Bruins have the experience to make a deep run, and that experience is coupled with four players that average in double figures. As long as they can stay healthy and consistent, the Bruins could surprise some people.

They’ll open against No. 13-seeded Alabama in Mobile on Saturday.

One team that could be on high alert is No. 4-seeded Providence. While the seeding was the Friars’ highest in school history, they’ll run into a buzzsaw in No. 13-seeded South Dakota State in Buffalo on Thursday. The Jackrabbits have won 21 games in a row (a streak that began on Dec. 20) and are led by a dynamic point forward in Baylor Scheierman (16.2 points/game, 7.8 rebounds/game and 4.6 assists/game).

The “March madness” is aptly named because truly anything can happen. Come tournament time, the most fundamentally sound, well-coached and hottest teams could all be eliminated in the blink of an eye.

In other words, logic doesn’t and won’t exist for these next few weeks of college basketball during the tournament. It’s all about who shows up, survives and advances. And, with that in mind, it’s time to let the madness ensue.

Serafimosa diagnosed with cancer

Snezhana Serafimosa, a forward on the Duquesne women’s basketball team, announced on Sunday that she’s been diagnosed with cancer.

In a statement posted to Twitter, Serafimosa said, “First, I want to thank God for giving me the strength these past few months. I thank my family, friends, teammates, coaches and the entire Duquesne University athletics department for having my back and a shoulder to lean on when I need it the most.

Recently, I was diagnosed with cancer in its earliest stages, had surgery and am recovering and mentally preparing for the treatments that follow. I appreciate all of the love and support I have been getting. This is just another obstacle that I will get through.”

Her tweet included a caption, which said, “I’m winning this one.”

Serafimosa played in nine games during Duquesne’s 2021-22 season, most recently appearing in a 78-68 win over St. Bonaventure. She also appeared in eight contests during the 2020-21 campaign.

Steelers sign Mitch Trubisky

After nearly two decades with quarterback Ben Roethlisberger at the helm, the Pittsburgh Steelers appear to have found his potential replacement.

On Monday, ESPN’s Jeremy Fowler reported that the Steelers will sign quarterback Mitch Trubisky.

According to NFL Network’s Tom Pelissero, the deal is for two years and $14.25 million, but incentives can push Trubisky’s earnings as high as $27 million.

Trubisky, who was selected No. 2 overall by the Chicago Bears in the 2017 NFL Draft, guided the Bears to two postseason appearances (2018, 2020) in four years. He spent the 2021 campaign with the Buffalo Bills, serving as the backup to Josh Allen.

Per Fowler, Trubisky picked Pittsburgh over the New York Giants because he “was looking for the best chance to get back on the field as a starter and win games.”

Trubisky, who has thrown for 64 touchdowns and 38 interceptions in 57 career games, will likely compete with Mason Rudolph and Dwayne Haskins for the team’s starting QB spot.
What happened to basketball in Pittsburgh?

Just two seasons ago, Pittsburgh’s NCAA Division 1 college basketball landscape looked as good as it had in a long time.

Robert Morris went 20-14 and swept its way through the Northeast Conference tournament to earn an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2014-15. Duquesne went 21-9 and was postseason bound for the first time since 2015-16. Pitt went 16-17, but improved by eight wins from an abysmal 8-24 campaign in 2017-18.

Yet, just 24 months later, all three major teams rounded out painful seasons with no postseason competition in sight, combining for a 25-69 record during the 2021-22 season.

How did this happen?

Finding the talent necessary for high-level success, at least up until 2020-21, was not a problem. These programs were plundered by the NCAA’s transfer portal. In response, the teams’ head coaches did not add enough talent from the portal. In response, the NCAA loosened its restrictions for players transferring in and out of programs.

Student-athletes no longer had to sit out a year and could immediately make an impact at a new university.

Under Jeff Capel, Pitt started the 2020-21 season with eight wins in its first 12 games and found itself near top of the Atlantic Coast Conference standings. However, the Panthers won just two of their final 12 games, finishing with a losing record (10-12) for the fifth season in a row.

In the same week during that year, two of Pitt’s top scorers decided to depart from the program: Diante Toney (averaged 14.4 points/game in 2020-21, transferred to Boston College in the ACC tournament’s opening round on March 8) and Xavier Johnson (averaged 14.7 points/game in 2021-22) and Michael Green III (transferred from Bryant prior to 2021-22, averaged 10.4 points/game) helped the Colonials steal a few wins. However, Robert Morris won just eight games in 2021-22 and suffered an excruciating home loss to IUPUI on Feb. 17. The Jaguars, who dressed only six players in the game and even coveted an out invitation to hold open tryouts just days earlier, earned their only Division I of the season with a road win over the Colonials.

Two more Robert Morris players — Brandon Stone (averaged 6.5 points/game in 2021-22) and Kam Farris (averaged 9.2 points/game in 2021-22) — announced their intentions to depart from the team this week, per Pittsburgh Sports Now.

So, where do things go from here? Can it get any worse?

While the NCAA Tournament — a common goal for most Division I programs — under this week, it’s clear that Duquesne, Pitt and Robert Morris have a long way to go in getting back to postseason competition.

This season’s results provide enough evidence to suggest that a good situation can turn ugly in a very brief period of time.

Although the culture might be better now, the winning is not there. Duquesne, who missed the entire season, while Horton was held out for a majority of the campaign.

An already-thin roster then turned its hope toward transfers like Mounahadou Gueye (transfer from Stony Brook, averaged 9.8 points/game in 2021-22) and Jamarius Burton (transfer from Texas Tech, averaged 12.4 points/game in 2021-22), but it was not enough.

Pitt buried itself with a 3-7 start to the season, including home losses to mid-major programs like The Citadel, UMBC and Monmouth. The Panthers never recovered, going 11-21 and bowing out in ugly fashion to Arkansas and Xavier Johnson (averaged 14.2 points/game in 2020-21, transferred to Indiana) both found homes at bigger-name programs that earned a berth into this season’s NCAA Tournament.

Following these departures and the loss of Justin Champagnie (signed with the National Basketball Association’s Toronto Raptors after the 2020-21 season), Capel’s most-promising talent had all gone elsewhere.

Entering 2021-22, Capel would have to rely on Ithiel Horton (transferred from Delaware prior to 2019-20) and Mike Sibande (transferred from Miami (Ohio) prior to 2020-21) to step up and fill the holes left by the flurry of players who transferred out of Pittsburgh to other schools.

Once Covid-19 abruptly canceled all postseason competition in March 2020 and drastically impacted the duration of the 2020-21 season (and even a bit of this season), roster shuffling went off the rails.

In response to the uncertain landscape, the NCAA loosened its restrictions for players transferring in and out of programs. Student-athletes no longer had to sit out a year and could immediately make an impact at a new university.

In four years, Capel has lost so much talent, yet he had nothing to address the losses. And, with a comment like that, losing talent from this year’s team like John Hugley (averaged 14.8 points/game and 7.9 rebounds/game) wouldn’t be all that surprising.

For Keith Dambrot, Duquesne looked to be in strong position in 2020-21, but that was soon tempered. A season highlighted by Covid stoppages saw the Dukes go a modest 9-9, losing Sincere Carry and Lamar Norman Jr. to the transfer wire in the process.

Carry went to Kent State, where he helped guide the Golden Flashes to a 14-game winning streak this season, while also being honored as the Mid-American Conference Player of the Year. Norman Jr. wound up at Western Michigan, also in the MAC, where he averaged a team-high 19.9 points/game in 2021-22.

Others followed suit at the end of the 2020-21 season. Marcus Weather (averaged 15.3 points/game) teamed up with his brother, Michael, at SMU. Chad Baker-Mazara (averaged 9.5 points/game) left to go to San Diego State and Tavian Dunn-Martin (averaged 10.2 points/game) headed south for Florida Gulf Coast.

Dambrot got contributions from additions like Kevin Easley Jr. (transferred from TCU, averaged 10.7 points/game) and Tre Williams (transferred from Indiana State, averaged 10.8 points/game) in 2021-22, but the young roster lost 17 games in a row to close out the campaign. This season’s Dukes won their fewest games in a season (six) since 2005-06, when they went 3-24.

After a 24-point home loss to Davidson on Feb. 23, Dambrot said “there’s no question I overcorrected [when building this season’s roster]. I still think I did the right thing by morals’ and ethics’ standards, but I hurt myself, and I hurt my school, and I hurt our team. So, I overcorrected. We had too much [expletive] that went on [with teams in previous seasons] and I had enough. …”

While the NCAA Tournament is now tasked with finding a way to address roster shortcomings: take advantage of the NCAA’s transfer portal by any means necessary.

Once these coaches add the talent, they need to find ways to maintain it. If they don’t, as seen recently, the losses will pile up and fans will quickly lose interest (if that hasn’t already happened).
Irish eateries you'd want to enjoy on your St. Patrick's Day

**Kelly O's Diner**

Kelly O's is one of many family-owned restaurants in Pittsburgh that celebrate all the wonders of Irish heritage.

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**Mullaney's Harp & Fiddle**

Located at 2329 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh, PA, Mullaney’s Harp & Fiddle is the perfect place for St. Patrick’s Day goers to attend.

This quaint Irish pub is known for being the heart of Ireland in the heart of the Strip, and is favored for its Irish entertainment, food and beverage.

With live music three nights a week, acoustic entertainment five times a week and Irish music all day Thursday, this is the pub to go to for the holiday.

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**McFadden’s Restaurant and Saloon**

A spacious and buzzy Irish joint with multiple bars and traditional eats, McFadden’s is the place to be this weekend in Pittsburgh.

Located at 211 North Shore Drive, this landmark pub is great for any type of party. Join your friends and family here for St. Patrick’s Day and enjoy the Pittsburgh skyline from the outdoor patio.

**Riley’s Pour House**

The home of Pittsburgh’s best Reuben, Riley’s Pour House is having its annual St. Patrick’s Day celebration with entertainment throughout the night.

Their lineup for Thursday includes President of the Ireland Institute Jim Lamb performing from 12 p.m. - 3 p.m., Irish musician Murphy Givens from 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. and to end the night, Irish singer Mark Guiser from 7 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Go on over to 215 East Main Street in Carnegie for great Irish Reuben Rolls and great entertainment.

**Monterey Pub**

Located in the North Side of Pittsburgh at 1227 Monterey Street, Monterey Pub gives people a little taste of Ireland in the Rust Belt of America. With a featured St. Paddy’s Day Menu including Shepherd’s Pie and pretzels with cheese, this pub has it all for the holiday. In addition, it offers a piece of Ireland in Pittsburgh’s Mexican War Streets section.

**Mahoney’s Restaurant**

A little Irish gem of a restaurant can be found at 949 Liberty Avenue: Mahoney’s Restaurant. This casual and friendly venue has a wide variety of food ranging from burgers with blue cheese toppings to sauteed onion, peppers, bacon and mushrooms to veal parmigiana. This menu has something for everyone, so all can enjoy an evening out together celebrating the holiday.

It’s located directly across from the August Wilson Center in downtown Pittsburgh, and is a great location for St. Paddy’s Day.

**Sieb’s Pub**

Family-owned and operated Irish pub, Sieb’s Pub, is known for its kind and warm-hearted owners who say you’re a customer when you walk in and then a friend when you leave. Anyone will feel welcome here in this family-oriented place whose food is made with home-made recipies. All the owner’s children are a part of the business and work to make a great neighborhood pub that can be your destination for the holiday.

If any of these restaurants and pubs spark your interest, head down today and enjoy the Feast of St. Patrick!
Students support man's best friend, make mats for adopted pets

Capri Scarcelli  
A&E Editor

Studies show that dogs bring out the best in people – that is, according to professor Anne Burrows.

Burrows is an anthropologist who teaches anatomy at Duquesne. While fascinated with all things evolution, Burrows found her love through research with dogs, specifically the dog-human bond. Through facial expressions and mutual gaze, dogs create a connection with their owner, Burrows said, which explains why so many people consider their dogs such an important part of their lives.

A group of students tell stories of their dogs at home while learning about their interactions.

To express her love for these furry friends, Burrows hosted an event in Tower’s MPR on March 16 at 6:30 p.m. to allow students the opportunity to learn about their pets at a deeper cognitive level. She detailed the distinction between wolves and dogs, where the species originated and how long ago; she showed not only the physical differences between each breed, but also the behavioral ones.

“No human culture lacks dogs,” Burrows said. “If you can spend time with a dog, it can lower your stress levels, and release oxytocin into the mutual gaze.”

Students were welcome to relax and enjoy making their own “sniffing mats” during the discussion. Sniffing mats are mini carpets that help dogs become more familiar/comfortable with their owners. Using discarded fabric, students helped cut old t-shirts into thin rectangles, tying together different colors through the plastic holes that allowed them to weave a pattern for the pups. According to Burrows, these mats are very important to helping dogs build their confidence before adoption.

“I work at Animal Friends, and I go three nights a week to help make dogs more adoptable,” Burrows said. “Every time a dog is adopted, they get to take their sniffing mat home as a gift to them for their good behavior.”

The mats can be made to fit any dog’s size or needs, and they can even be made to hide treats in them for a yummy surprise.

Olivia Origer, physical therapy major and RA for Towers, thought this event would be a relaxing, interactive event for her floor.

“Making the mats kept me busy instead of scrolling through my phone, and I honestly loved hearing everyone talk about their dogs,” Origer said.

Having to choose a professor to give a lecture for her floor program, Origer said she chose Burrows because she wanted a sneak-peek of her dogs and humans interactions class, which is available irregularly to students.

According to pre-law student Zachary Seddon, this presentation helped him learn more about his emotional support dog.

“As an RA, I had my dog on the wing, and I noticed the guys would actually quiet down at night once they found out I had a dog in my room,” Seddon said. “It’s crazy to think how much people will care for these pets.”

Batman’s brooding presence hits theaters, surprises audience

John Cantwell  
Staff Writer

The caped crusader is back with the darkest iteration of the character yet.

When Robert Pattinson was announced to don the infamous cowl, he was met with a multitude of negativity from trolls and critics alike, with many Batman fans immediately reimagining Pattinson’s sparkly performance from the “Twilight” saga.

Although (depending who you ask) the “Twilight” series has become less of a serious sensation and more of a comedy, Pattinson’s performances have progressed greatly since being a vampire still in high school.

“The Lighthouse,” “Good Time” and “High Life” are stellar performances from the actor, as he completely transforms himself into the roles, but in “The Batman,” Pattinson creates his own interpretation of the vicious crime fighter, as he truly dives deep into the inner darkness and trauma of Bruce Wayne, showcasing a brooding and edgy performance of one of the most popular comic book characters ever.

From the exposition of the film, the audience is immediately met with an extremely jarring scene, one reminiscent of thrillers such as “Se7en” and “Zodiac.”

Right from the grizzly scene, although it is PG-13, it is conspicuous that this will not be a traditional, child-friendly comic book movie.

The audience is introduced early on to Paul Dano’s Riddler, which is a character that is often seen as someone to not be taken seriously. Former actors of the character play them as comedic characters, much like how Frank Gorshin and Jim Carey demonstrated in past Batman films.

Dano’s performance is much more grizzly, taking on the persona of a brutal and enigmatic serial killer murdering Gotham’s corrupt elite, who not only plants riddles for the Gotham Police Department but is also attempting to psychologically torment Batman, all while gaining a cult following of his own.

Zoe Kravitz also gives a stand-out performance as Catwoman, a foe in Batman’s rogues gallery who is more of an anti-hero, as she in recent years has been exemplified as more of a Robin-Hood figure. Kravitz taps into that archetype, as well as igniting the seductive relationship between her and Batman.

The score of the film is absolutely spectacular, as composer Michael Giacchino created a gothic, haunting melody that plays throughout the entirety of the movie, making the atmospheric and brooding nature of the world’s greatest detective.

The use of Nirvana’s “Something in the Way” illustrates the reclusive, drab and isolated nature of Pattinson’s Bruce Wayne, who is greatly juxtaposed from the billion-dollar blockbuster persona that many viewers are more familiar with.

“The pure trauma of Pattinson’s Batman is truly displayed in full form, as his vengeful brutality is shown when he violently fights criminals, but in a far more unhinged manner than other Batman actors like Bale and Affleck.”

Gotham City becomes a character in the film as well, as its Victorian and dilapidated structures bring the viewer into the city, as its melancholic vibe feels much more like the comic book setting than Nolan’s universe.

The three-hour time period for the movie I understand can be a negative aspect for casual filmgoers, but the consistent storyline and dynamic between Commissioner Gordon and Batman is so enthralling, Pattinson is performing a completely original take on the character, which emphasizes the detective work of the caped crusader just as much as the action hero that most movie fans know and love.

As a Batman fan, I believe that although Matt Reeves’ The Batman is not the best comic book movie ever made. Instead, I genuinely believe that Reeves and Pattinson created the best Batman movie thus far, as Pattinson has proved what it takes not just to be a hero, but a traumatized individual who does whatever it takes to keep pushing forward.
Pixar’s “Turning Red” brings unprecedented female representation

Pixar’s newest film “Turning Red” was turning heads on release with representations about menstrual cycles, teenage girls and middle school crushes. It caused a huge stir in Disney and Pixar fans, receiving both immensely positive and negative reviews, but ultimately, “Turning Red” is a spearhead in what young female representation should look like in modern film.

The animated feature, set in early-2000s Toronto, paints the perfect (or the not-so-perfect) picture of what it’s like to go through puberty. But the film has an unorthodox approach to discussing the process: Melin Lee, played by Rosalie Chiang, wakes up to a giant red panda.

As her emotions go wild, Mei finds herself becoming more rebellious as the film progresses. Instead of constantly studying, cleaning and pleasing her mother, she starts sneaking out and raising money to buy tickets for the boyband 4 “Town’s concert – along with the help of her loyal and eccentric friends.

Many were up in arms about the film’s subject matter, as well as the “limited” audience it catered to, but in reality, it’s no different from past Pixar films and their grown-up metaphors. “Wall-E” warns us of overconsumption, “Soul” presents reflection on the meaning of life, “Coco” emphasizes the importance of family. Plus, all of these films focus on different races and ethnicities and robots.

Where “Turning Red” differs from the rest is its hyperfocus on teenage girls, who are often ignored in the Pixar studios. Moreover, 20 of the previous 24 films have featured a male protagonist.

Often in society, puberty is treated as somewhat of a taboo subject, when in reality, everyone goes through it – boy or girl. But especially for girls, they’re told throughout their teenage years to hide their charges, abide to school dress code rules, act like a lady, etc. – but “boys will be boys.” The animated film is upfront about the taboos, and can be a huge help for young girls entering into these stages themselves.

It shows that girls can do all the fun things boys can do, even if it makes your parents angry. It also highlights the special friendships made during these pivotal years, and a “girls support girls” attitude. Feminine puberty-centered films are few and far between, save for a few starring Macaulay Culkin, or some set of actors at age 25 playing a 17-year-old. And even these, most of the time, aren’t quite age-appropriate for young boys and girls stepping into adulthood.

“Turning Red” is much more lighthearted, and tackles both puberty and feeling alienated from your parents in an almost comforting and fun way. It teaches young girls that they’re allowed to have their own personality and independence, and to be confident in their growth – even as a giant smelly red panda.

On top of that, Domee Shi is the first woman to solely direct a Pixar movie, and “Turning Red” also features the first all-women leadership team. If Mel’s exuberance of confidence wasn’t enough, the women behind the scenes are just as much of an inspiration and representation for women in the film industry.

The Celluloid Ceiling report for 2021 tracked women’s behind-the-scenes employment on top grossing and watched-at-home films. After two years of increases in the percentage of women working as directors, their numbers declined in 2021. Women comprised 17% of directors working on the top 250 grossing films in 2021, down from 18% in 2020.

But 80% of films in 2021 were piloted by men, and women accounted for 25% of those working in key behind-the-scenes roles (directors, writers, executive producers, producers, editors and cinematographers) in 2021, up from 23% in 2020.

“Turning Red” is a model example of feminine power in film. The all-women team created a successful, one-of-a-kind animated feature that also starred a female protagonist. At the same time, they’re taking charge as a gateway for future women filmmakers.

Anyone who watches the film can latch onto something from it, whether it’s family values, friendship values, the struggles of puberty or even representation of the Chinese culture. It’s fun enough for young kids to enjoy, and mature enough for teenagers and adults to take a lesson or two from.

Young women should be seen as confident, and having that representation in film is key, whether on the silver screen, or working behind it.

“People have all kinds of sides to them, and some sides are messy. The point isn’t to push the bad stuff away, it’s to make room for it, live with it.”

JIN LEE (“TURNING RED”)

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Running the gas gauntlet: Weighing solutions to rising prices

ZACHARY PETROFF  
staff columnist

This past break I spent time back in my hometown of Canton, Ohio. I used my time to relax, reflect and listen to my friends and family members go on and on about fringe conservative talking points derived from cable news and Facebook. It was a treat, patiently listening to the regurgitation of ill-informed talking points and ridiculous conspiracy theories easily debunked by applying a minimal amount of critical thinking.

As much as I disagreed with most of the things they said, I did appreciate it, and if pressed, I would have to admit I missed it. It’s nice to listen to an opinion or a viewpoint that isn’t the direct reverberation of my own echo chamber.

Two of the reoccurring talking points my Sean Hannity-esque family and friends kept bringing up were how bad Joe Biden is and how outrageous gas prices are.

While I may not agree with their Fox News-inspired solutions, I agree with the sentiments. Joe Biden is not doing a good job and gas prices are too high.

While my proposed solution to fix the current administration and hold them accountable — instead of giving the 79-year-old president a free pass because he is simply “not the other guy” — requires much more radical use of our political institutions.

However, my solutions to fix gas prices are both flexible and viable: nationalize and replace.

I have heard the cry to start drilling in the United States. This was on full display when congresswoman Lauren Boebert wore a “Drill Baby Drill” shawl at the State of the Union.

The pain at the pump is real. It does not help that the rate of inflation is the highest it’s been since 1982, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. With the continuation of stagnation and an ever diminishing of a middle class, the untimely increase of gas prices can break those already on an overstretched budget.

The notion that this can be fixed with drilling in the U.S. is not nearly as feasible nor practical as some believe. Let’s put the harmful environmental detrimental consequences aside — even though we definitely should not — the solution to our lowering of gas prices is not simply going on an American drill frenzy.

This is not without precedent. March 18 marks the 83rd anniversary of the Mexican “Oil Expropriation Day.” The national holiday is a celebration of when the Mexican government kicked out foreign oil interests and nationalized all the petroleum reserves, facilities and foreign oil companies in 1938. While I may not agree with their position, it was not due to the high price of oil, but was sparked by union workers trying to receive a raise and affecting a country that is familiar with any other current economic climate?

Despite what your conservative relatives say on social media, the president does not control gas prices with the push of a button. Oil companies are a free enterprise that operate with few restrictions. Often when an administration even thinks of applying any sort of regulation to the oil landscape, they forego billions of dollars in revenue. It’s just the price of doing business in an oil-producing country.

We are not truly holding those that are responsible accountable. America is already one of the top producers of oil. The prices are manipulated not by production but by the events on the world market — along with the end goal of providing large returns on investors to the shareholders to shell companies. An increase in drilling will not lower gas prices, it just allows a level of flexibility to shell companies in terms of trading globally on the market.

Restriction to oil companies from price gouging is a myth. This is apparent every time a natural disaster occurs. The U.S. government does a horrible job regulating these gigantic oil corporations even at times when Americans need it most. It is not likely that China will do what’s best for China.

Russia-Ukraine: “China will do what’s best for China”

MIA LUBRANI  
staff columnist

Everyone is aware of the ongoing humanitarian crisis that has resulted from the Russian-Ukraine war. There are multiple strategies to understand what may happen to either end or escalate the invasion. On an international front, China will always act in the best interest of China.

China, or President Xi Jinping, should step in to mediate the conflict and effectively convince Putin to lose all hopes of expanding his political power onto other states. This could increase their soft power status by showing their diplomatic ability to encourage peace in international crises.

Although this option is the one everyone hopes for, Russia has begun searching for a lifeline because Putin’s war is proving to be more difficult than originally hypothesized by the Kremlin.

It is a fact that China has a superior drone and missile system that could aid Russia in their invasion, and Russia recently asked China to help mediate and economically. China has declined this request and Beijing has condemned the humanitarian crisis forming from the war.

It is important that China should not offer any sort of help to the Russian invasion. If they do decide to side with Russia, the war will be opened up to an international arena. The European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) will impose strict sanctions and even send military backup to Ukraine. The casualties are already horrific, but if China joins in this war, they could be disastrous.

NATO and the EU both have expressed support for Ukraine in their battle for democracy. NATO and the EU are strong international coalitions that protect the sovereignty of their respective nations. Although Ukraine is not part of either group, both groups have sided through refugee intake, military support in Poland and economic sanctions in Russia.

China is a large international player in the ongoing crisis. According to the World Bank, China’s GDP has been growing at an unprecedented rate since the 70s. Their country is among the global south, which is the under-industrialized region of the globe. The World Bank finds their gross domestic product has grown to almost $15 trillion, but the United States still has the superior $21 trillion.

China also has ties with Russia. Both countries are centralized authoritarian governments that maintain their states through strict policy enforcement with one ruler. China and Russia have been allies in the international system, meeting a total of 38 times as national leaders, according to The Hill. This is more than any other two heads of states, so it is safe to say the leaders are close.

If China decided to help Russia in their anti-democratic invasion, the world would impose uniform sanctions on China like they have done to Russia. As published in the World Bank trade statistics, China relies heavily on the U.S., Hong Kong, Japan and other western nations. Economic sanctions and trade barriers would hurt their economic growth and status in the system.

Also, China has its own human rights violations, lacks technology infrastructure and economic inequality. China’s biggest concern right now should be to boost its trade with competitive free-market states and to focus on internal characteristics that usually hamper the development of states.

China will always do what is best for China. Xi also has his reelection to keep in mind. I assume he will be peaceful until next fall when his citizens vote for his reelection. Although international specialists believe that helping Putin would help his position for reelection, the censored media in China might be able to positively highlight China’s role.

Another option for Xi is to play international peacekeeper. China played a leadership role in the early 2000s to diffuse tensions in the Korean Peninsula in an attempt to denuclearize North Korea according to The Hill. This helps their position to gain a more positive outlook in the eyes of western liberal democracies.

It is not likely that China will play peacekeeper because it could fail and hurt his standing in the upcoming elections. Russia’s only logical option is stop the madness. We can all hope that the EU, NATO and China act as a united front in presenting this option, but does a horrible job regulating these gigantic oil corporations even at times when Americans need it most. It is not likely that China will do what’s best for China.

Mia Lubrani is a staff columnist. She can be reached at mlubrani@ecp.com.
Best Reuben in Pittsburgh this St. Patty's Day

T

his year, the Duke answers your burning question: What is the best Reuben Sandwich in Pittsburgh?

First of all, Pittsburghers have to know what’s inside the classic sandwich. Its beginnings are ambiguous, but the widely-accepted start of the Reuben sandwich was at a hotel in Omaha, Neb. A group of men played poker at this hotel on a regular basis, and one of them, Reuben Kulakofsky, asked for a corned beef and sauerkraut sandwich, according to Elizabeth Weil from the New York Times. The chef took this request and created the first official Reuben sandwich.

The sandwich received national recognition when, in 1956, it won the National Sandwich Idea Contest. While the sandwich itself is not a traditional Irish sandwich, its ingredients are considered a staple among the Northwestern Europeans. Every March, restaurants city-wide pull out the toasted rye bread and the corned beef for the Reuben sandwich St. Patty’s Day tradition.

The following Reuben sandwiches came highly recommended from Duquesne students and staff from across campus.

Isaly’s
448 Perry Highway
“Not too sour, and not too salty. The cheese is always melted to perfection.”
- Emma Polen, features editor

City Works
2 PPG Place (Market Square)
- Brittany Alexander, sophomore

Carson Street Deli
1507 East Carson St.
- Megan Reiley, junior

Duke’s Cafe
122 West Eighth Ave.
- Ceece Howald, fifth-year

Smokin Joe’s
2001 East Carson St.
“The combination of corned beef, sauerkraut and thousand island dressing is juicy and goes great on their variety of reuben sandwiches, fries and pizza.”
- Zoe Stratos, opinions editor

Primanti Bros.
Various Pgh Locations
- Nick Paresinio, sophomore

Cafe Fifth Ave
818 Fifth Ave.
“The bread is toasted perfectly. The whole sandwich melts in your mouth.”
- Mary Liz Flavin, news editor

LEPRECHAUN FUDGE
Recipe by Emma Polen

Wow your Irish friends this St. Patrick’s Day with creamy, green fudge that can be whipped up as quick as a leprechaun in the microwave oven!

Ingredients
- 1 cup sweetened condensed milk
- 3 C white chocolate chips
- 1 C shelled pistachios (chopped)
- 1/4 C Irish cream
- Green food coloring
- Storage: Silicone freezer ice mold

Instructions
1. Pour chocolate chips and sweetened condensed milk into a microwave safe bowl.
2. Microwave for 2-3 minutes until melted, stirring the mixture every 30 seconds.
3. Add the Irish cream and stir.
4. Add 3-10 drops of green food coloring, stirring between each one until the desired green color is created.
5. Add almost all the chopped pistachios to the melted chocolate (save some for a garnish) and stir.
6. Pour fudge into molded silicone ice mold.
7. Add the remaining pistachios as a garnish, as well as edible gold flakes for extra leprechaun-themed fun.
8. Refrigerate until completely hardened, which can take 1-4 hours depending on the size and strength of the fridge.

Peter Boettger | Staff Writer

Regional Band Festival showcases

Duquesne and student success

Emma Polen | Features Editor

The 155-student band was led by Donald McKinney, a Duquesne music school alumni and nationally-renowned conductor.

Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) hosted its Region 1 Band Festival on Friday, March 11, with guest conductor and Duquesne alumni, Donald McKinney.

The performance featured 155 students from 60 high schools across Western Pennsylvania, and took place in the Mt. Lebanon High School auditorium.

While Duquesne was not the host of the regional band festival, its musical talent lived on through their behind-the-scenes work (Robert Traugh and Paul Doernken made contributions), and guest conductor McKinney.

McKinney is the current director of bands, professor of conducting, and chair of the conducting area at the University of Colorado Boulder College of Music. Before that, he held faculty positions at Louisiana State University, Interlochen Arts Academy and Duquesne University. He completed a portion of his musical education at Duquesne University.

With his ties to the city, McKinney said he was “so happy to be back,” at the concert.

A new challenge that McKinney and the group faced was time. While rehearsal time is always optimized (students come together for two days, roughly 12 hours in total to rehearse before the final performance) this year’s Region 1 Band Festival was rescheduled from Saturday, March 12, to Friday, March 11, due to weather concerns. With this, McKinney was “so happy to be back,” at the concert.

After introductions, the band launched into their performance of Festival Overture, a piece McKinney said he had heard at a previous PMEA Festival and had to play with the group. McKinney is back in Colorado to conduct his bands, and local high school students are looking forward to participating in the All-State PMEA Band Festival happening in April at the Poconos.
The Duquesne Duke

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