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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. "However, I think that next Monday is pretty bad timing, given the likely surge in cases that will come from spring break travel and St. Patrick's Day.

"My only suggestion would be to give it just a little while longer as we wait and see what kind

see MASK — page 2

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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Pittsburgh decked in green with St. Patrick's Parade back in full swing



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.

MARY LIZ FLAVIN
news editor

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 tak-



COURTESY OF KARYN REINHART

James Gourlay led the band of over 20 student musicians through downtown Pittsburgh, playing from 21st and Liberty right down to the Blvd of the Allies.

ing 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

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 hammondcc@duq.edu.

COVID-19

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Reacting to changes; "It's time for masks to go away now, but maybe not permanently"

see MASK — page 1

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



Masking up to fight Covid-19 might soon be a thing of the past at Duquesne. In an official statement sent to students and faculty on March 4, the university announced that, on March 21, masking indoors will likely no longer be required.

LUKE HENNE | SPORTS EDITOR

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 decid-

ing, 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."

SACNAS hosts charity dodgeball tournament

MARY LIZ FLAVIN

news editor

Students along each side of the dividing line eagerly waited for the referee's call, eyeing which dodgeball they should lunge for first. On the 'go' teams of five and six raced to the line to get the ball in their hands first.

On Wednesday March 16, the Society for Advancement of Chicanos, Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) hosted a dodgeball event in which multiple student organizations competed against one another in order to raise money for the charity of their choice.

The rules of dodgeball were simple: don't touch the blue lines, stay with-in bounds, don't

see BALL — page 3



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.

MARY LIZ FLAVIN | NEWS EDITOR

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 Tobia, 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," Tobia 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 Fabiola 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



MARY LIZ FLAVIN | NEWS EDITOR

Two teams scrambled to get a hold of the ball first. The quickest and nimblest players were on the ball.

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 Magicarpe 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.



MARY LIZ FLAVIN | NEWS EDITOR

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 cheered as the game continued on.

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.



COURTESY OF JAMES GOURLEY

Junior performance major Jon Runion (on trumpet) and music education major Kate Denman (on percussion) smiled through the cold as they performed.

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 paks, 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

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 on the sports calendar.

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 EJ Liddell (averaging 19.6 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 Jaden Ivey (17.4 points/game).

One storyline to keep an eye on is a potential rematch between Gonzaga and Baylor — both No. 1 seeds — in the Final Four. The two teams met in last season's national title game, with Baylor coming out on top.

Led by Drew Timme (West Coast Conference Player of the Year) and Chet Holmgren (WCC Defensive Player of the Year and a projected high draft pick in the 2022 NBA Draft), the Gonzaga Bulldogs look to be unstoppable. However, with four players averaging over 10 points/game, the Baylor Bears' scoring depth and championship experience should serve them well.

The No. 1-seeded Kansas Jayhawks, Baylor's counterpart in the Big 12, have a potent scorer of their own in Ochai Agbaji (19.7 points/game). Fellow No. 1-seed Arizona features three legitimate stars in Bennedict Mathurin (17.1 points/game), Azuo-

las Tubelis (14.5 points/game), and Christian Koloko (12.1 points/game). Under the guidance of first-year head coach Tommy Lloyd, the Pacific-12 Conference champions could be well positioned for a matchup with Gonzaga — where Lloyd formerly served as an assistant coach — in the championship game.

One dark horse to keep an eye on is No. 5-seeded UConn. The Huskies' success is due in large part to their defense, which allows the second-fewest amount of points/game (65.2, trailing only No. 2-seeded Villanova) in a talented Big East Conference. Pair

falo, N.Y., on Thursday.

In the Southeastern Conference, keep an eye on No. 3-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.

Reverting 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 avenge a second-

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 garners much of the love and attention in the Pac-12, No. 4-seeded UCLA is flying under the radar. Last season, 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 Akron in Portland, Ore., on Thursday.

One team that could be on high upset 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 phrase "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.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Gonzaga has not missed an NCAA Tournament since 1997-98, but has never won a national title. The Bulldogs will look to finally flip the script this season.

this with a deep frontcourt, led by center Adama Sanogo (14.9 points/game and 8.9 rebounds/game), and UConn could be in a sneaky position. The Huskies will open up against No. 12-seeded New Mexico State in Buf-

round exit as a No. 1 seed in last year's tournament. Illinois will do battle with No. 13-seeded Chattanooga on Friday at PPG Paints Arena.

Other first-round games that will be played in Pittsburgh on Friday

MLB ready for season after 99-day lockout

SEAN O'DONNELL
staff writer

With Major League Baseball's Opening Day just around the corner on April 7, fans will be able to enjoy it more knowing that the whole season was in jeopardy just a week ago.

The league entered a lockout on



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Commissioner Rob Manfred, MLB and the MLBPA saw the lockout end after reaching an agreement on March 10.

Dec. 2 and didn't come to a new agreement with the MLB Players Association (MLBPA) until March 10. The deal runs through the 2026 season.

The work stoppage prevented teams from making roster moves, while also delaying the start of the season following the inability to meet deadlines during the negotiations.

The 2022 season was originally scheduled for March 31, but was bumped back a week. Fortunately, the week's worth of postponed games will be made up throughout the season and in the week following the original end of the regular season.

The lockout was initiated by MLB commissioner Robert Manfred, as the 2017 collective bargaining agreement (CBA) was set to expire, and the league was still in disagreement with the MLBPA on what the new agreement should contain.

The MLBPA's main concern with the 2017 agreement that they wanted changed was payment for the league's younger players. In 2021, the league's minimum salary was \$570,500. With veteran players like

New York Mets pitcher Max Scherzer making over \$43 million a year (per Spotrac), the drastic spread of wealth was a key concern for the MLBPA.

The minimum salary has been raised to \$700,000 and will increase by \$20,000 per season through 2026.

The MLB owners wanted to change the postseason format, which has included 10 teams since 2012. Owners proposed that 14 teams make the postseason. The MLBPA met them in the middle, as there will now be 12 teams (six per league) in the postseason field.

The MLBPA and the MLB also agreed to continue negotiating the idea of an international draft. In the past, MLB teams would send scouts all over the world (to countries like the Dominican Republic) to find young talent. Teams could sign players they found with essentially no restrictions, but the MLB wants a more structured way of getting these players signed.

The MLB proposed a 20-round draft where players from outside the United States would be eligible to enter, starting at age 16.

Some players have expressed their disapproval, including MLBPA representative and Mets shortstop Francisco Lindor. He tweeted that he was "in bargaining sessions for months," and that the idea of an international draft is more "about how to divide players."

With representatives like Lindor still voicing displeasure, the MLB and the MLBPA agreed to not let this continue the lockout, as the subject will be discussed more during the season.

The league avoided a massive problem by ending the lockout when they did. The MLB is not just about players, but also about regular, working-class citizens. Baseball stadiums employ concession workers, electricians, janitors, security and broadcast teams.

Prior to the deal being reached, these workers faced the potential of being out of a job. As a result, the MLB launched a \$1 million fund to help support those impacted.

With a new CBA agreement, the league is more balanced, and a 162-game season is ready to commence.

Serafimoska diagnosed with cancer

Snezhana Serafimoska, 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, Serafimoska 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, have had surgery and am recovering while I mentally prepare 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."

Serafimoska played in nine games during Duquesne's 2021-22 season, most recently appearing in a Jan. 8 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?

LUKE HENNE
sports editor

Just two seasons ago, Pittsburgh's NCAA Division I 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.



PETER BOETTGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Duquesne's Jackie Johnson attempts a shot during the Dukes' Feb. 12 loss against Fordham.

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 market, at least enough to fill the gaps 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



LUKE HENNE | SPORTS EDITOR

Robert Morris players cut down the nets following an NEC title game victory on March 10, 2020.

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.

Under Jeff Capel, Pitt started the 2020-21 season with eight wins in its first 10 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. Au'Diese Toney (averaged 14.4 points/game in 2020-21, transferred

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 Nike Sibande (transferred from Miami (Ohio) prior to 2020-21) to step up and fill the holes left by those who departed.

Before the regular season even began, Sibande tore his ACL in an exhibition game, and Horton was arrested for charges including aggravated assault. Sibande 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 Mouhamadou Gueye (transfer from Stony Brook, averaged 9.8 points/game in 2021-22) and Jamarious 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 Boston College in the ACC tournament's opening round on March 8.

Following the 20-point loss, according to Craig Meyer of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, Capel said, "We need to get better players. It's not anything personal. We have to continue to add better players and recruit better players."

In four years, Capel has lost so much talent, yet he's done next to 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 19.8 points/game in 2021-22.

Others followed suit at the end of the 2020-21 season. Marcus Weathers (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 our 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 ..."

Although the culture might be better now, the winning is not there. Dambrot, who will return next season, is now tasked with finding a balanced mix of talent and coachable players.

The roster shuffling continued on Monday, when Pittsburgh Sports Now reported that Toby Okani (averaged 3.9 points/game in 2021-22) will transfer away from Duquesne.

While Andy Toole's Robert Morris rosters weren't torn down like Capel's and Dambrot's were, the 2020-21 team saw the graduations of three key seniors from a season before (Josh Williams, Sayveon McEwen and Yannis Mendy). These three players were implicated by the NCAA's decision to not grant an extra year of eligibility to athletes who competed during 2019-20 winter sports.

An ugly 2020-21 season saw a Robert Morris roster filled with inexperienced players go 4-15, with one of those wins coming against Point Park (a non-NCAA

school). In 2021-22, just two seasons removed from a championship run, not a single player remained from the title team.

Toole did bring in players like Ferron Flavors Jr. (Oklahoma State) and Rasheem Dunn (St. John's) from major programs, but both of them were gone before the season even hit its halfway point.

Players like Kahliel Spear (transferred from Bucknell prior to 2020-21, 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 tweeted out an intention 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?

With the NCAA Tournament — a common goal for most Division I programs — underway 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.

While Capel, Toole and Dambrot could change coaching philosophies to appease current players or find new, refreshing ways to pitch to recruits, there seems to be one solid 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).



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

In four seasons as the head man for Pittsburgh, Head Coach Jeff Capel has yet to produce a winning season or a postseason berth.

Irish eateries you'll want to enjoy on your St. Patrick's Day

ISABELLA ABBOTT
staff writer

Don't know where to go for your St. Patrick's Day festivities? These pubs and restaurants will be open today so you can celebrate the luck of the Irish.

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 also 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.

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



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

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 Shepard'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 topped with 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 recipes. 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!

campus events

Cha-Cha Lesson!
March 17 @ 8 p.m.

Go to the Power Center Fitness Studio for DBA's next dance lesson! No experience needed!

Study Abroad Information Table
March 18 @ 11 a.m.

Interested in studying abroad? Go to Fisher Hall to check out the Center of Global Engagement's information table on future trips!

DPC DUNite: DIY Self-Care Kit Making
March 18 @ 9 p.m.

Go to the NiteSpot to make your very own self-care kit! Supplies provided, but limited.

Trip to Grove City Outlets
March 20 @ 11:30 a.m.

Go to the Center of Student Involvement to secure your spot to Grove City Outlets! Transportation is only \$5. Bus departs from the Union at 11:30 a.m. and leaves Grove City at 4 p.m.

capri's kind words

Back into the swing of things

It's frustrating having to pick back up from where you left off when you finally catch your breath.

There's good to both of these, though. Even though taking a break can mean for a slow start, it can also mean you have the opportunity to start anew. Whatever you've walked away from in the past week or so, you can approach from a new perspective.

Or, you can do more of what was working before, and less of what was holding you back. With a clearer mind, thinking about how you prioritize may help you to move forward in a more productive way that is beneficial to you.

Most of this comes down to habits. It's easy to fall back into a rhythm that you are used to, but are you fond of it? Building new, healthy habits sometimes works better during the schoolyear versus on a break; this way, you can hold yourself accountable to the changes you thought of making before and now have the chance to put into practice.

Whatever direction you take, make sure it feels like a good start to you.
— Capri Scarcelli

Aquarius

Wait isn't prom the big boy dance? Or is that weddings?

Pisces

If you, me, and a friend put our heads together, we'll have THREE brain cells to complete this task!

Aries

Living on a thin lineeee
oooooooooooo

Taurus

Go green! Go girls! Go vegan!
Go Dukes!

Gemini

Can someone please come to the Rainbow Kitten Surprise concert with me this is my final plea.

Cancer

That shamrock is NOT shakin'!

Leo

The chokehold sunshine has on my mental health...

Virgo

If I keep doing things right, when will it stop!

Libra

No! We can't follow them to the North Shore! We don't KNOW them!

Scorpio

Well I'll be darned!

Sagittarius

Bullying is not a part of the conditioning process!

Capricorn

What if: cow-print Apple Watch.

Students support man's best friend, make mats for adopted

CAPRI SCARCELLI
a&e editor

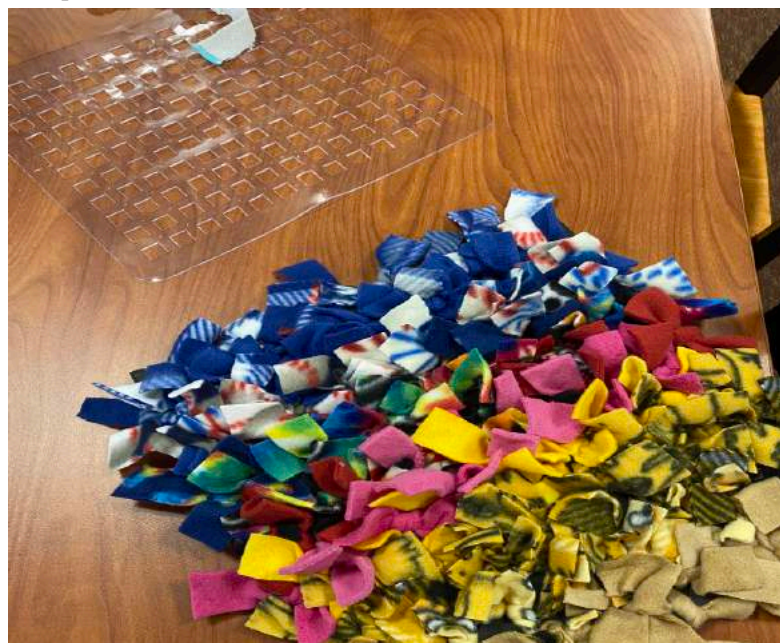
Studies show that dogs bring out the best in people – that is, according to professor Anne Burrows.

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.

CAPRI SCARCELLI | A&E EDITOR



CAPRI SCARCELLI | A&E EDITOR

Students spent their evening putting mats together for dogs in need.

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 between 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 reigniting 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 demon-

strated 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 standout 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 billionaire playboy persona that many viewers are more commonly 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 Bat 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 story line 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.

THE DUKES

113 College Hall
600 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15282

editorial staff

editor-in-chief Colleen Hammond
news editor Mary Liz Flavin
opinions editor Zoe Stratos
features editor Emma Polen
a&e editor Capri Scarcelli
sports editor Luke Henne
multimedia editor Andrew Cummings
layout editor Brentaro Yamane
social media & ads Erin Carbone

administrative staff

adviser Paula Reed Ward

email us: theduquduke@gmail.com

“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”)

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

@TheDukesneDuke

editorial policy

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THE OPTIMIST

THE PESSIMIST

THE R.A.

BENJAMIN CRAWFORD | STAFF COMIC ARTIST

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: Meilin Lee, played by Rosalie Chiang, wakes up to discover that when her emotions run high, she’ll turn into 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 crushes, 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



ZOE STRATOS
opinions editor

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 Mei’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.

Over 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.

staff editorial

The responsibility of companies during crises

As more companies begin to pull their business from Russia in the wake of the Ukrainian invasion, it brings up the question of what corporations’ responsibilities are in the midst of a crisis. They are not governing bodies, so should they have any responsibility in global affairs?

The influence of multinational corporations on the world stage continues to grow, and it is important that they take on the responsibility that comes with that influence.

Some companies make revenues that are equal or larger than the GDPs of entire countries, which puts significant economic responsibility on those companies. Apple, for example, has a market cap of 1.3 million dollars, which is equal to the GDP of Australia, according to ABC Financial Limited.

Corporations have a large influence over Russia’s economy, and pulling their business from Russia will make the economic sanctions imposed by governments more effective.

Mark Haas, a political science professor at Duquesne, says that economic sanctions have been limited in their effectiveness in the past.

“Historically speaking, sanctions rarely work in changing [an] enemy state’s behavior, especially behavior that is considered a vital interest to the rival state’s leaders,” Haas said in an earlier interview with *The Duke*.

While countries like the U.S. are banning Russian oil and gas imports, the withdrawal of major businesses will further cripple the Russian economy and apply more pressure to withdraw from Ukraine.

Gary Hufbauer, an economist at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, notes the emphasis on corporate responsibility in an article by CNBC.

“My thinking is that we’ve had this period of emphasis on corporate social responsibility and many CEOs and directors nominally saying they are all for it. With the ‘woke language’ of the moment they would be hard pressed by the background and their statements and the atmosphere not to be out in front of it,” Hufbauer said.

While it is good that companies are taking steps to counter the Russian invasion, it is important to keep motivation in perspective.

These companies may believe that what they are doing is right, but their decisions are likely not altruistic in nature. They have an image and brand to maintain, and it would not look very good to do business in an aggressive Russian state.

Witold Henisz, a professor of management at the University of Pennsylvania, commented on the potential motivation of corporations pulling out of Russia in a CNBC article.

“If you have to pull out under such pressure, you might as well look courageous. No one wants to be the last one still in,” Henisz said.

When it comes to activism, consistency is key. If companies truly want to make an impact, it is important that they continue to take steps and not merely work to appease public opinion.

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 many of the things said, I really 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



ZOE STRATOS | OPINIONS EDITOR
In Pittsburgh's South Side neighborhood, a BP on the corner of East Carson Street and 10th Street advertises gas at \$4.35 per gallon.

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 stagnant wages, the pandemic and overall 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 all 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. Ironically the decision to nationalize petroleum was not due to the high price of oil, but was sparked by union workers trying to receive a living wage. I wonder if that sounds 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, these for-profit industries react by increasing prices in order to remind us of their stranglehold on the U.S. economy and, ultimately, public opinion.

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

shale companies. An increase in drilling will not lower gas prices, it just allows a level of flexibility to shale 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.

If the U.S. can justify the need for utilizing American oil wells, then they can concede this is an act of American security and thus needs to be nationalized. We need to stop letting the 24 oil companies have so much lateral freedom, as well as political influence.

According to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, since 2011 four oil companies employ around 40 lobbyists per year and have spent around \$350 million on Federal lobbying. The American Petroleum Institute employs 48 lobbyists and have spent \$78 million trying to influence Congress this past decade.

It is time America takes a page from our southern neighbors and puts the interest of the American people first. Nationalizing the oil industry allows the American people the ability to take back their country and purge the U.S. of the greed of a few.

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-Ukrainian war. There are multiple strategies to understanding 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 sovereign 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 militarily 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 aided 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 *New York Times*. This is more than any other two heads of states, so it is safe to say the leaders are close.

China accuses the U.S. of causing the war in Ukraine, attempting to shift the focus back on reckless western foreign policy. Also, in an attempt to shift fault, Russia and China have paired up to accuse the U.S. of financing biological and chemical weapon labs in Ukraine.

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



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

China and Russia have been allies in the international system, meeting a total of 38 times as national leaders, according to the *New York Times*. This is more than any other two heads of states.

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 Russia would hurt his position for reelection, the censored media in China might be able to positively highlight China's help.

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 Ko-

rea according to The Hill. This helped 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 to stop the madness. We can all hope that the EU, NATO and China act as a united front in presenting this option, but countries' foreign policy decisions are extremely complex to predict. If Russia increases its position in any way or creates an alliance with China, the world will be pushed further into an international war.

Best Reuben in Pittsburgh this St. Patty's Day

THE DUKE STAFF

This 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

The Rosecliff Tavern

4040 Monroeville Blvd.

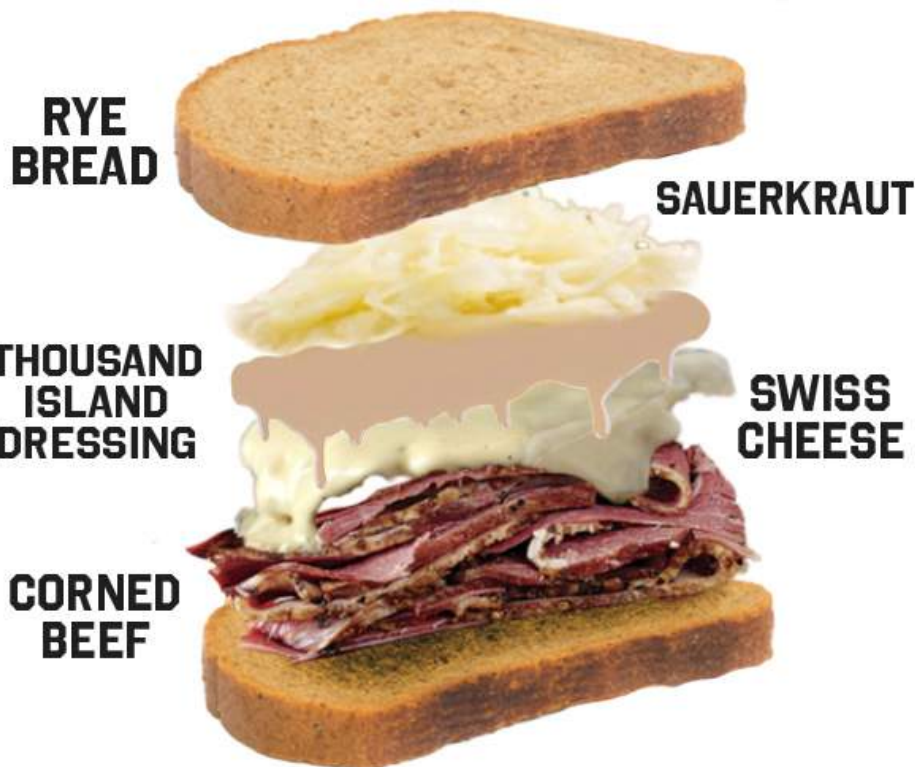
- Karen Bova, student success coach

Big Jim's in the Run

201 Saline St.

"There's a really good proportion of everything! And it's a massive sandwich."

- Maura James, second-year



PETER BOETTGER | STAFF WRITER

City Works

2 PPG Place (Market Square)

- Brittany Alexander, sophomore

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 Parsenios, sophomore

Cafe Fifth Ave

818 Fifth Ave.

"The bread is toasted perfectly. The whole sandwich melts in your mouth."

- Mary Liz Flavin, news editor

Regional Band Festival showcases Duquesne and student success

EMMA POLEN

features editor



EMMA POLEN | FEATURES EDITOR

The 155-student band was led by Donald McKinney, a Duquesne music school alumn and nationally-renown 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.

The band was made up of student musicians from two district divisions of PMEA, one of which performed in a district festival at Duquesne University in January (see News, Jan. 27 Issue).

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 Doerksen 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 given the task of rehearsing the group for a total of seven hours.

Of the five pieces students were given to practice ahead of the group rehearsal, they performed three, with the addition of the Star-Spangled Banner and the Salute to PMEA March.

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.

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 can 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 cubed 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.



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The Duquesne Duke

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from 1-2p.m.in
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Writers & Photographers needed for the Duke

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Contact our Editor-in-Chief
hammondc@duq.edu

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Under 21? Zero tolerance
 Contrary to popular opinion, Saint Patrick is NOT the patron saint of alcohol. Who knew?!

Underage drinking penalties:
 1st violation: \$500 fine from the state
Section 6308 of PA Crimes Code

Possible university sanctions:
Duquesne University Student Conduct Policy
 1st violation: \$100
 2nd violation: \$150
 3rd violation: \$200

21 or over? Enjoy responsibly
 You don't have to drink to have fun this Saint Patrick's Day; but if you are over 21 and choose to, know the risks and use good judgment.

Tips for responsible alcohol consumption:

- Know your limits (.08 legally drunk)
- Take a water break
- Eat before drinking
- Pace your drinks
- Never drink and drive
- Be COVID responsible

This program is made possible through a grant funded by the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board. The opinions and statements expressed do not necessarily represent the views of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board.

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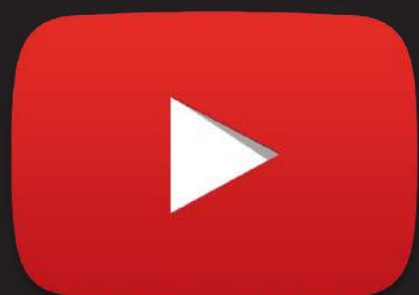
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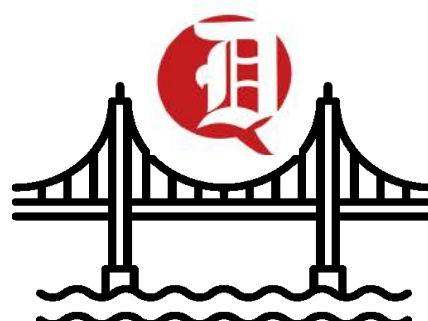


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