

sports	a & e	opinions	features
March Madness comes to Pittsburgh City hosts NCAA Tournament games for first time since 2018	Festivals, flowers and Elton John Various events in Pittsburgh highlight the talent and beauty the city has to offer	Increasing access to vaccines The benefits to House Bill 1535 Senate Bill 511	Retail Therapy on campus Marketplace provides students chance to support local business
PAGE 4	PAGE 6	PAGE 9	PAGE 10



Doors open in the Union Broadcast Center

ZACHARY PETROFF
staff writer

An eager crowd of nearly 100 students and faculty were in attendance on Tuesday to watch the anticipated ribbon cutting ceremony of the new state-of-the-art Broadcast Center. While the new Broadcast Center has been operational since late last year, Duquesne President Ken Gormley, alongside 105.9 The X's Abby Krizner, formally introduced the Union Broadcast Center by utilizing the facility to broadcast live in the Africa Room and on the Praxis Magazine YouTube channel.

After the ribbon cutting ceremony concluded, attendees were able to take a tour of both the main studio and control room. Director for the Center for Emerging and Innovative Media Don Maue provided insight on the technological capabilities that the newest media center can provide to the student body.

"This space is a system of multiple pieces of equipment that all work together, and so at the heart of it is the switcher known as the TriCaster Two Elite. The TriCaster Two Elite is the same piece of technology that every Major League Baseball, every National Hockey League, and every National Football League and every National Basketball association have. It is their tool that they use for their broadcast," Maue said.

The Union Broadcast center is located on the third floor of the Union overlooking A-Walk
see STUDIO — page 3

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

Proudly Serving Our Campus Since 1925

Parkhurst employees' protest proceeds down A-Walk; \$0.30 pay increase not enough



ALICIA DYE | STAFF WRITER

Melissa Aronld, Debra Byerly and Maria Blunt; Parkhurst employees, spoke out against the current pay wages. In addition, Pittsburgh City Council members Bobby Wilson and Deb Gross; and Allegheny County Council member Dewitt Walton spoke during the protest.

ALICIA DYE
staff writer

Parkhurst workers at Duquesne University have been fighting for a better wage and a better contract with their employer, Parkhurst, over the last week, leading to a protest on March 23 on A-Walk.

The workers handed out flyers to students March 18, which told students the ongoing issues and encouraged students to stand with the workers as they fight for a better contract.

Parkhurst Dining and Parkhurst employees are still in negotiations for competitive wages and other benefits for the members of Duquesne Dining.

"It has always been, and continues to be, our practice to meet with the union and confidentially resolve our differences at the bargaining table, without distractions. We look forward to continuing to meet and negotiate with the union to arrive at a new collective bargaining agreement," Cindy Simak, the director of marketing for Parkhurst said in a press release.

The same press release stated that the proposed \$0.30 wage raise is already above the living wage for the Pittsburgh area.

The release also said that there

were no proposed reductions to paid time off. Additionally, there would be an additional option for team members to choose to enroll in the company-sponsored single health, dental and vision plans under the new contract, compared to the payment to the union for each full-time and regular part-time team member enrolled in coverage that employees currently have in their contract.

The average Parkhurst cafeteria worker makes \$17.60 an hour, \$26,205 a year, according to a media advisory by 32BJ of the Service Employees International Union.

"A \$0.30 wage increase is an insult. This is a risky job. They are essential workers who deserve a fair proposal," said Ana Tinsly, a Regional Communications Manager for 32BJ SEIU.

The protest on March 23 was not just made up of Parkhurst cafeteria workers, as Pittsburgh City Council members and Allegheny County Council members joined the workers in protest and handed out 'frownie' cookies, a play on Eat'n Park's classic 'smiley' cookies. They also eassed more flyers while chanting different phrases such as 'I believe that we can win' and '32BJ.' Employees also carried a

small sign that had a frownie face on one side, with the other side saying '32BJ SEIU.'

Speakers included Parkhurst employees Melissa Arnold, Debra Byerly and Maria Blunt; Pittsburgh City Council members Bobby Wilson and Deb Gross; and Allegheny County Council member DeWitt Walton.

"I am here to say loudly and clearly that Parkhurst needs to step up and offer proposals that show respect for our hard work," Blunt said during the protest. "Know that the proposed offer

from Parkhurst just won't do."

Arnold has worked at Duquesne for almost a decade, and now currently works at the Starbucks location on campus. Arnold wants to be able to feed her family, especially during an all time high of inflation rates in the U.S.

"\$0.30 raise, when we can barely afford to put gas in our car or pay the rent, is an insult," Arnold said.

Pittsburgh City Council member Bobby Wilson, who represents District One, better known

see WAGE — page 2



ALICIA DYE | STAFF WRITER

The average Parkhurst cafeteria worker makes \$17.60 an hour, according to a media advisory by 32BJ of the Service Employees International Union.

POLICE BRIEFS

Tuesday, March 15-

An unidentified male damaged a paystation in the first floor lobby of the Forbes Avenue Parking Garage breaking the plastic door off of the receipt compartment. This case is still ongoing.

Saturday, March 19-

A Duquesne University female student reported she was sexually assaulted by another female on the Point Park University campus. This case is still ongoing.

Three non-affiliated females reported that their car was keyed while parked on Locust Street next to the School of Music. Officers were able to find the male on camera, though he has not been identified yet, and was seen leaving the area in a dark colored sedan. This case is still ongoing.

EMAIL TIPS

We want your input!

The Duke's news section would love to hear from you about stories that you want to see in print. Know a talented professor or accomplished student? See something on campus that just doesn't make sense? You can send your tips and story ideas to Editor-in-Chief Colleen Hammond at hammondcc@duq.edu.

COVID-19

NUMBERS

SCAN HERE FOR
COVID-19 DATA



Advertise
with us!

theduqduke@gmail.
com

Duquesne follows through with mandate lift

LUKE HENNE
sports editor

After a March 4 announcement stating that Duquesne's mask mandate was likely coming to an end, the university officially dropped the restriction on Monday.

In a release sent to students and faculty on March 17, President Ken Gormley said that because Covid-19 transmission levels are low – both on campus and in the region as a whole – the university will no longer require masks to be worn in indoor settings for the first time since Covid began sweeping across the nation over two years ago.

"I've been informed by our Health Services professionals that the testing following spring break has yielded no positive cases, either in symptomatic individuals for whom cold or flu was the source of symptoms or in surveillance testing of asymptomatic individuals," Gormley said in the release.

Elizabeth Solenday, a junior majoring in early childhood education, feels that it's the right time to make masks optional and that the move is a great decision by the university.

"If vaccines were not mandated, I may have a different opinion, but I feel more comfortable knowing that the vast majority of the campus community is vaccinated," Solenday said.

When the mandate was dropped on Monday, Solenday said that it felt like the campus community "was able to take a deep breath."

"Having connection with our classmates and community without masks is both an odd, yet exciting, feeling," Solenday said. "I believe that excitement is felt across campus."

Masks will not disappear completely, however.

Exceptions to the lifting of the requirement could occur "in cas-

es where individual faculty members decide to require masks in classes based on safety in the context of class needs for interaction in a limited physical space or other specific concerns related to conducting their own classes."

Nonetheless, students and faculty are afforded the individual choice to wear a mask. Gormley asked that people respect each person's individual choice to wear a mask or not.

Some students like Wyatt Van Dyke, a sophomore double majoring in sports information and media alongside sociology, are still choosing to wear a mask, for now.

"I'm still continuing to wear one, at least for a little bit, because I myself am mildly immunodeficient," Van Dyke said. He acknowledged, however, that he feels indifferent to the university's decision.

"Covid seems to be on a relative downturn," Van Dyke said. "And with it getting to be warmer outside, it's not a prime time of the year for transmission."

He also feels that the student body is happy with the university's decision.

"[I] wouldn't say the Duquesne student populace was great at wearing them to begin with," Van Dyke said. "So I get why there's excitement about the mandate being lifted."

Solenday and Van Dyke both said that, so far, none of their professors have mandated mask wearing in classrooms and are, ultimately, leaving the choice up to students.

In the release, Gormley said that the university could reimplement a mask requirement if there is a dramatic shift in circumstances, or if Allegheny County alters its policies.

"For the remainder of the semester, we will be in regular contact with local and state health officials," Gormley said. "The university's Health & Safety Committee will follow avail-



ZOE STRATOS | OPINIONS EDITOR

Duquesne students, who are no longer required to wear masks indoors for the first time since March 2020, walk through the Union on Wednesday. While some choose to go without masks, others still wear them.

able data to advise if any policy changes are needed due to increased transmission rates of the emergence of any sufficiently threatening variant."

Jennifer Hamann, a second-year Ph.D. student in the university's clinical psychology department who also teaches an introductory psychology course, said that she's in support of the university's choice.

"I especially feel comfortable with this decision because I know that many, if not all, of my students are vaccinated, aside from those who have a legitimate exemption," Hamann said.

Hamann said that her department "follows what the higher-ups suggest" in relation to keeping a department-wide requirement in place, adding that she will not require masks in her classrooms.

She cited the Center for Disease Control recent guidance surrounding masking and relieving student anxiety as two main reasons.

"Many of my own clients at the clinic have reported increased anxiety surrounding

Covid in general," Hamann said. "The recent decision to stop the mask mandate at Duquesne will likely ease anxiety and stress for students, staff and faculty."

However, Hamann hopes that people won't be excluded for the individual choice they make.

"I support students who still feel comfortable wearing one [a mask], and I hope that they do not feel singled out or intimidated by others who choose not to," Hamann said.

In the announcement, Gormley encouraged unvaccinated and vulnerable individuals to continue wearing masks, while also saying that the campus community has "come quite a long way to arrive at this point."

"It's wonderful to be able to relax some protections and finish the academic year on a more positive note – something we've hoped would happen for a long time," Gormley said. "I'm reminded yet again of the power of our Duquesne community when we work together to overcome the adversities that we've faced."

Parkhurst employees fight for wage and benefits

see WAGE — page 1



ALICIA DYE | STAFF WRITER

Two Parkhurst employees stood on A-Walk and gave out "frownie cookies" as a part of the protest.

as the North Shore area, spoke about how he wants to support the workers.

"We have to support the workers," Wilson said. "You have my commitment. Whatever you guys need, I'm here."

Byerly has worked for food services for almost 50 years. Byerly is a cancer survivor and said that with the new proposed healthcare change, she would not be able to afford treatment.

"Having the union and healthcare that we have was actually a life saver," Byerly said. "I would have paid over \$100,000 in medical costs had it not been for my union health insurance. Having good health insurance kept that cost down for me to copayments of \$75 or \$100 at a time. Had I had a healthcare plan like the one Parkhurst is offering, that \$100,000 bill would have been mine to pay."

"I've been working here for 47 years," Byerly said. "What we des-

perately need right now, today, is a company that respects us, our work, our contract and our union. We do not and have not had that with our current company,"

The event was also live-tweeted with the hashtag #ServingJustice.

"Public support always helps," Tinsly said.

The university understands why the Parkhurst workers are protesting and has a good working relationship with SEIU and with Parkhurst, and expects them to reach an agreement at some point.

"The importance of the union's advocacy in advancing the interests of its workers is well understood," said university spokesperson Gabriel Welsch. "The university respects the process in which SEIU and Parkhurst are engaged and is confident both parties can reach a mutually beneficial resolution."

Students can show their support for the food service workers by following @32BJSEIU on Twitter.

Lights, camera, action on Union broadcast

see *STUDIO* — page 1

where the clear glass gives anyone walking by a clear view of the broadcast center. The impressive space resembles that of a live news station.

The control center is equally impressive, filled with brand new equipment and technology. The small sound-proof room mirrors that of a professional production with eight monitors and two giant screens that display both broadcast centers in the Union and College Hall.

Chief studio engineer and senior, Joseph Phillipe, said the abilities that the Union Broadcast Center has is more than its

technological capabilities.

"The thing that I found most valuable about college isn't that it is about academics, it is about the connections you make and the practical experiences you get while you are here, and you get both of those things in this studio," Phillipe said. "You get the state-of-the-art practical experience you're not going to get anywhere else."

Representatives of various media and communications organizations such as Duquesne Student Radio, Duquesne Student Television and the Institute for Ethics and Integrity for Journalism had tables set up in

the Africa Room. The groups were there to advocate for student engagement through their various programs. The broadcast center provides an ample opportunity for the storytellers of the university to work on and distribute their craft.

"Media isn't just broadcast. It is definitely print. It is digital. It's any way you can tell a story," said Tara Bradley-Steck, the directing fellow of the Institute for Ethics and Integrity for Journalism.

The station manager for Duquesne Student Radio, Jade Zalevsky, has had experience working with the Union Broad-

cast Center. In February, WDSR along with DSTV hosted the "Sweet Streaming" event that showcased student talent live on YouTube.

"I feel like the Broadcast Center is really great because it's a union of the two, whereas even if you're just doing radio and there's no cameras on you, students are still able to walk by and see you, which is what I feel like something that WDSR never had before," said Zalevsky.

Zalevsky is planning for WDSR to have more opportunities to utilize the Union Broadcast Center for future radio shows.

The center, along with other communication and media organizations, is open for all students regardless of their educational concentration. These resources are designed to encourage creativity and explore various avenues of technology and media.

"The most impressive piece of equipment in this space is a student's open mind. Nothing can surpass the power of an open mind and students thinking that almost anything is possible," Maue said. "The way you learn this is not by reading a book, you learn this by having a reason to learn it and that reason is some message that you feel so important to get out. If you have a sense of what you're doing is important for either a sense of value or a sense of purpose, you will learn anything to get that message out."



ZACHARY PETROFF | STAFF WRITER

The control room houses many of the technological components of the Broadcast Center, including several monitors, which showcases the main studio. This room also houses the TriCaster, mixing board and other equipment.

Food trucks back to fuel staff and students

NICHOLAS ZOTOS

staff writer

Spring has officially sprung once again here on the Bluff. Last week, students from all across campus journeyed out of their dorms to enjoy the warm weather. To compliment this shift in weather, food trucks have returned to campus.

Students took advantage of the food trucks last Thursday positioned on A-Walk. Many of them were excited at the prospect of the returning variation of food which offered an alternative to daily dining options. Additionally the trucks provided a dining venue in the warm sun.

"It is such a nice day outside and we are sick of all the other food options. We wanted something different, and we both love Italian food," Haley Dilullo, a freshman pharmacy major, said. "We are extremely eager to have food from the food trucks, and generally every week they do not disappoint."

Many shared Dilullo's sentiments, as outside seating for lunch on Thursday was scarce. Many students were outside enjoying the warm weather, and the presence of the food trucks provided a reason for many to stay

and socialize on A-Walk

"We will most likely find a place to eat our food outside. We have some friends who will meet us and it's nice to finally have the food trucks back. I know many people who like having them on campus and when it's nice outside it's an added bonus," said Courtney McDonnell, a freshmen pharmacy major, said.

Even the food truck owners were just as excited as the students to return to campus. Forlini's Kitchen, an Italian cuisine food truck, appealed to many students.

"We are elated to be back on campus. I have been in the restaurant business for over 35 years and I recently started my own food truck business. It is easier and I have the freedom to go where I want," said Lou Forlini, owner of Forlini's Kitchen food truck.

"Scott Richards reached out and many of the food vendors are here because of him. We are glad that he invited us back to campus. In my opinion, college students love the food truck culture and I am glad I can bring my business to campus," Forlini said.

Scott Richards, the Assistant Vice President for Auxiliary Services at Duquesne, was excited to have food trucks back on cam-



NICHOLAS ZOTOS | STAFF WRITER

Lou Forlini, owner of Forlini's Kitchen food truck, happily holds his food creation as he prepares to give it to a student.

pus as well.

"We had such a great success with the food trucks last semester—it just made sense to bring them back again," Richards said in an emailed statement.

Food trucks will be back on campus weekly for the remainder of March and April, with the exception of Easter week, according to Richards. Trucks will return Thursdays March 24 through April 7, and Fridays on

April 22 and 29.

Specific food trucks lined up for the coming weeks include PGH EATZ, Auntie Anne's, Sinkers and Suds, Nakama and Secretos, Richards said.

Forlini's kitchen will be back on campus in three weeks and students can expect to see a variety of food truck options return to campus for the remainder of the spring semester, weather permitting.

DU alum, former ESPN reporter Clayton dies

LUKE HENNE

sports editor

John Clayton, one of the most distinguished alumni of Duquesne University's media department, died on Friday at the age of 67 in Bellevue, Wash., following a brief illness.

A native of nearby Braddock, Pa., Clayton etched himself into the fabric of the sports media landscape in 1972, when he began covering the Pittsburgh Steelers. He was hired by the *Pittsburgh Press* in his senior year, eventually graduating from Duquesne in 1976.

Nicknamed "The Professor," Clayton also occasionally served as an adjunct faculty member at his alma mater.

He eventually became the Steelers beat writer for the Press before taking a position to cover the Seattle Seahawks for *The News Tribune* in Tacoma, Wash., in 1986.

In a statement, the Steelers described Clayton as "a Pittsburgh media icon."

By 1995, Clayton was working as a National Football League reporter for ESPN. He remained with the network until May 31, 2017, when he was let go during the company's widespread layoffs.

Chris Mortensen, a current NFL reporter at ESPN and longtime colleague of Clayton's, was said, "Anyone paying attention [to Clayton's work] walked away a little more educated," according to ESPN senior writer Jeff Legwold.

In the years following his departure from ESPN, he worked for outlets such as *The Washington Post*, while also spending five seasons as the sideline reporter for the Seahawks' radio network.

He contributed at Seattle Sports 710 AM as recently as March 8, when he offered commentary on the Seahawks' decision to trade quarterback Russell Wilson to the Denver Broncos.

In 2007, Clayton was presented the Dick McCann Memorial Award (now known as the Bill Nunn Memorial Award) by the Pro Football Writers of America to honor "long and distinguished reporting in the field of pro football."

In a 2018 interview with the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, when Clayton was asked how long he'd continue his NFL reporting, he said, "Until they plant me, I guess."

According to Mortensen, Clayton died peacefully with his wife, Pat, and sister, Amy, at his side. He met Pat during his tenure with *The News Tribune*, where she covered bowling.

On Monday, Seattle Sports 710 AM announced the launch of the John Clayton Memorial Fund, designed to benefit the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

The organization is committed to providing research to fight off a disease that many, including Pat, have battled with.

Hope wins NCAA DIII WBB national title

GRACE HEIDINGER AND
SPENCER THOMAS

staff writers

This past weekend in Pittsburgh, the NCAA crowned a champion for its Division III Women's Basketball Championship for the first time since 2019.

With a 71-58 win over Wisconsin-Whitewater in Saturday's title game at UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse, Hope College captured its third-ever national title and its first since 2006, capping off an impressive 32-1 season.

The tournaments were canceled in both 2020 and 2021 due to Covid-19, which only added to the powerful emotions throughout the weekend.

Play opened with semifinal action on Thursday afternoon, when UW-Whitewater – arguably the most alliterative team in the country – bested Amherst 55-51.

Only a handful of points separated the teams throughout the 40 minutes of play, but UW-Whitewater's performance at the free-throw line – which included hitting all six free-throw attempts in the first quarter – helped secure the win, especially in the game's waning moments.

With three seconds left, Kacie Carollo knocked down two free throws to extend the Warhawks' lead from two to four. Carollo, whose mom is UW-Whitewater's head coach, put the game out of reach and pushed the Warhawks past the Mammoths.

"When your daughter is on the free-throw line to send you to the National Championship Game, you want your player to rise in those moments," said Head Coach Keri Carollo. "But for her to be my daughter, [it] makes it even more special."

Thursday's night cap featured an anticipated clash between Hope and

Trine University, conference foes that met for the fourth time on the season.

From tipoff, Hope controlled both ends of the floor. The Flying Dutch opened the game on a commanding 8-0 run and led by as many as 18 (41-23) deep into the third quarter.

However, Trine didn't back down from the challenge. The Thunder managed to come all the way back and tie the score at 52 with 3:35 remaining in the game.

Hope quickly reclaimed the lead 22 seconds later, and a two-point jumper from Olivia Voskuil with 26 seconds left put the game on ice. The Flying

for the first time all season.

The Warhawks wasted no time setting a tone, hardly using any of the shot clock on most of their possessions. Thanks to a layup from Aleah Grundahl, they led 16-14 at the end of the opening quarter.

A turning point came early in the second quarter, when the Warhawks had a 23-18 and lots of momentum.

With just over seven minutes remaining in the quarter, UW-Whitewater's Johanna Taylor missed a layup attempt. Hope grabbed the rebound, and a subsequent 3-pointer from Kennedy Schoonveld cut Hope's



SPENCER THOMAS | STAFF WRITER

Hope players celebrate after beating Wisconsin-Whitewater in Saturday's NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Championship title game at UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse.

Dutch fended off the Thunder's comeback attempt, ultimately securing a 57-52 victory and a spot in the title game.

Saturday's championship game between UW-Whitewater and Hope saw high-flying offenses go toe-to-toe

deficit to a single possession.

The squads traded baskets, playing a visually thrilling, end-to-end style of basketball. At halftime, the Flying Dutch and Warhawks were tied at 34.

Despite the even score, astute

fans might have noticed the disparity in scoring distribution between the two teams. While Hope was seeing massive contributions from bench and role players, UW-Whitewater was not.

The Warhawks didn't have a single point from a non-starter in the opening half, with 28 of the 34 points coming from just three players.

The lack of depth scoring eventually caught up in the second half. Hope opened the third quarter on a 6-0 run. From there on, the Flying Dutch preserved the lead for the rest of the game.

Hope's Sydney Muller, who was named Tournament Most Outstanding Player, complimented tenacious defense with 18 points. Ella McKinney added 21 points off the bench for the Flying Dutch.

Despite a valiant effort, the Warhawks ran out of gas. When all was said and done, Hope had outscored UW-Whitewater 29-2 in bench points en route to a 13-point victory.

When asked what the difference was in the second half, Hope Head Coach Brian Morehouse attributed his team's success to their play on the boards. The Flying Dutch held a 28-19 edge in that category.

"[At halftime], we just said that if we rebound in the second half, then we're gonna win," Morehouse said, wearing the net that he got to cut down like a necklace. "We've stood up when we needed to stand up, and today we did it in the second half, and that's why we get to cut down the nets."

The championship had the Morehouse family name imprinted all over it. In addition to Brian, his daughter (Meg) provided valuable minutes off the bench in the win. His father (Dean) has been an assistant coach with the program since the 2000-01 season.

WLAX beats Butler

Despite trailing by as many as four goals, the Duquesne women's lacrosse team used a second-half surge to defeat Butler 19-16 at Rooney Field on Sunday afternoon.

The Bulldogs held a 12-8 edge early in the third quarter, but the Dukes managed to even the score at 14 heading into the fourth quarter. After Alana Piano broke the tie just under three minutes into the final quarter, Duquesne would maintain the lead for the rest of the game.

Tina St. Clair, who scored a game-high-tying five goals and added two assists in the victory, recorded a goal and an assist in the third quarter before adding some insurance with another goal to make it 16-14 early in the final frame.

Duquesne Head Coach Corinne Desrosiers offered high praise for her senior attacker.

"Tina is awesome. She knows what to do off the ball. She knows what to do with the ball," Desrosiers said. "She's always here to help her team. She is there with the right play call when they need it. She is the experience in a very young offense."

The Dukes also got key contributions from Delaney Rodriguez-Shaw and Mackenzie Leszczynski, who each scored four goals. Six of the combined eight goals came in the game's second half.

The three-goal win helped Duquesne snap a three-game losing streak that began on Feb. 23.

"Coming into today, we really wanted to handle the adversity and the high emotions of a very physical and aggressive Butler team," Desrosiers said. "Today's game plan was to play more disciplined, and I think that we did that."

With the Dukes trailing by three goals (11-8) at halftime, Desrosiers worried that her team's inexperience would catch up to them.

"We have a really young team, which I love, but with young teams, you can hit the panic button early when things don't go your way," Desrosiers said.

However, Duquesne found a way to overcome the deficit and win a game for the first time since beating Kent State on Feb. 20.

The Dukes will return to action on Friday afternoon, when they host Saint Joseph's at Rooney Field.

-Benjamin Gottschalk, Staff Writer

Penguins go all in at trade deadline

RUSSELL MACIAS

staff writer

Despite lofty hopes a season ago, New York Islanders forward Josh Bailey's double-overtime goal in Game 5 of the Stanley Cup Playoffs' opening round pushed the Pittsburgh Penguins to the brink of another early postseason exit.

Two days later, after one more New York win, Pittsburgh had been eliminated by the Islanders for the second time in three seasons and faced an off-season loaded with questions.

General manager Ron Hextall instilled a belief in core players like Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin. He supplemented the core with depth pieces like Danton Heinen, Brian Boyle and Brock McGinn.

This year's team entered the NHL trade deadline, again, sitting near the top of the Metropolitan Division. With another playoff run imminent, Hextall continued to add to a strong roster, acquiring forward Rickard Rakell from the Anaheim Ducks and defenseman Nathan Beaulieu from

the Winnipeg Jets on Monday.

Pittsburgh sent depth forwards Zach Aston-Reese and Dominik Simon, in addition to a second-round pick in the 2022 NHL Draft and goaltender prospect Calle Clang, to Anaheim. All Beaulieu cost was a conditional seventh-round pick.

The Rakell trade feels like a fair price to pay for a forward who fills one of the Penguins' most-glaring needs. With inconsistent play from Kasper Kapanen, multiple injuries to Jason Zucker and dry spells from Jeff Carter and Evan Rodrigues, Rakell provides immediate scoring potential.

In 51 games with Anaheim this season, Rakell recorded 16 goals and 28 points. He was a key part of the Ducks' run to the Western Conference Finals in 2016-17, registering 13 points in 15 postseason games.

As a pending unrestricted free agent (UFA) at season's end, Rakell is purely a rental. With a third Stanley Cup in seven seasons within reach, there's not much reason for complaining.

He should contribute right away, as the Penguins are jockeying with the

New York Rangers and Carolina Hurricanes for seeding in the Metropolitan Division. Rakell joined the Penguins on Tuesday, playing left wing on a line with Carter and Kapanen in a 5-1 win against the Columbus Blue Jackets at PPG Paints Arena.

Beaulieu is currently out with a lower-body injury. At such an inconsequential cost, however, he provides a solid defensive depth option.

This team feels much like the title teams of 2016 and 2017. Tristan Jarry is having a career year and the team's five main players (Crosby, Malkin, Kris Letang, Jake Guentzel and Bryan Rust) are all contributing around or over a point per game.

The organization needed to be all in at the deadline. Of the five stars, three will become UFAs at season's end.

Rust, although not currently paired with Crosby, has become one of the captain's most-consistent linemates since the Chris Kunitz and Pascal Dupuis era. Pittsburgh hopes he'll take a hometown discount, but his play suggests that he could command well over \$7 million a season

if he tests the open market.

Malkin and Letang, franchise icons, will also see their contracts expire. Malkin has stated that he has a desire to stay in Pittsburgh, but Letang rumors still swirl. There will simply not be enough money for everyone to stay.

Despite what this city might be accustomed to, consistently competing for a Stanley Cup is difficult, and the clock is ticking on this core.

Monday's moves suggest that winning now remains the ultimate goal.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Bryan Rust, a two-time Stanley Cup champion, faces an uncertain future at the end of this season.

Pittsburgh welcomes March Madness to town

LUKE HENNE
sports editor

For the first time since 2018, Pittsburgh and Duquesne University hosted NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship First and Second Round action this past weekend at PPG Paints Arena.

Eight teams came to the city with hopes of beginning their journey for a national title. But after six games and a weekend packed with high-stakes competition, only two teams are leaving town with their goal still a reality.

The First Round games – all of which fell in the bracket's South Region – got underway Friday afternoon, when No. 7-seeded Ohio State took on No. 10-seeded Loyola of Chicago.

Coming off a run to the Final Four in

"They [Loyola] play good defense. They're a top-20 defense nationally," Liddell said. "And [I] felt like they came out there and competed, and we did as well. So this is a great defensive game, not a high-scoring game, not a big highlight game."

"But, I mean, we just had to make those extra-effort plays on [the] defensive end, and I feel like we did that tonight."

Loyola of Chicago Head Coach Drew Valentine, a 30-year old in his first season as the head man, didn't want to let one loss be symbolic of a season in which his squad went 25-8 with a Missouri Valley Conference tournament title.

"I was at a loss for words after coming into the locker room because there's so many different emotions," Valentine said. "But I think the main thing that I want to

The underdog Mocs led by as many as 14 points and held an advantage for almost 39 of the game's 40 minutes, but two made free throws by the Fighting Illini's Alfonso Plummer with 12 seconds remaining gave Illinois the lead for good.

Chattanooga's Malachi Smith, who led the Mocs with 12 points, had a shot blocked by Illinois' Coleman Hawkins on the ensuing possession. He regained control of the ball and put up one final shot as time ticked off the clock, but his attempt was unsuccessful.

"... I felt like if you're gonna get a shot for the win, that's a shot you'll take," Smith said. "And it's frustrating because [it's] a shot I work on a lot, and it didn't go in. And that's all I can say. I just let my teammates down, and I just missed a shot that I usually make."

Illinois survived largely due to the play of Kofi Cockburn, who scored 17 points, grabbed 13 rebounds and blocked three Chattanooga shots.

"This is the NCAA Tournament, and things get tough," Cockburn said. "[Head Coach Brad Underwood] reminds us things get tougher each week, each game."

Friday's final game saw No. 5-seeded Houston control the game from start to finish, beating No. 12-seeded UAB 82-68 due largely to Kyler Edwards, who posted 25 points, seven rebounds and three assists.

"... I like to stay confident, so I always think my shot is going," Edwards said. "So my teammates look for me a lot because they know I can shoot. So credit to them and the team [for] looking for me."

Houston Head Coach Kelvin Sampson stressed the growth of his team throughout the season as being a key factor for his Cougars' 14-point win.

"I don't know if I've ever had a team I'm as proud of as this bunch for everything that they've had to overcome [injuries to key players]," Sampson said. "But also proud because of how they've grown."

"Growth. Growth is important for a basketball team. You have to grow. But you have to grow together. And I'm fortunate that I have high-character kids, big-time high-character kids."

UAB Head Coach Andy Kennedy, who led the Blazers to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2015 in just his second season on the job, knew the challenge wasn't an easy one, and it showed.

"Coming in, I've got nothing but the utmost respect for Kelvin Sampson and the Houston program," Kennedy said. "And we knew we were going to have to really be on edge in order to have an opportunity to advance."

After a day off in between, Second Round action got underway on Sunday, as Houston battled Illinois with a trip to the Sweet 16 on the line.

Despite brief runs from the Fighting Illini, the Cougars led for almost 33 minutes of game time in a 68-53 victory. The win helped Houston reach the Sweet 16 for the third NCAA Tournament in a row.

Sampson credited the program's sustained success to having a locker room oriented on good culture.

"Our kids ... they really believe in the

culture we have created over the years," Sampson said. "And we've lost four starters every year for so long, it just seems natural that we have a brand-new team this year."

"... But the culture never changes. Because they're great kids and they're high-character kids, they buy in. It's never about them. Our program is always about we and us, and that's what happens when you have great kids."

Pittsburgh's final game of the weekend saw Villanova battle Ohio State. The Wildcats looked to reach the Sweet 16 for the fourth time in the last six tournaments, while the Buckeyes tried to advance past the first weekend for the first time since 2013.

Although Ohio State made the game competitive late in the second half, Villanova fended off a ferocious comeback and won 71-61 behind 20 points and four assists from Collin Gillespie.

Villanova Head Coach Jay Wright applauded the Buckeyes' comeback attempt.

"I would like to start by saying we really respect Ohio State and what a tough, intelligent team they are," Wright said. "We take pride in this victory because we watch a lot of film on them, and they're really good."

Ohio State Head Coach Chris Holtmann knew that Villanova's quick starts, both at tipoff and at the start of the second half, made a difference.

"Yeah, obviously a painful loss," Holtmann said. "I hate it for our players, but let's give Villanova credit, particularly how they started both halves, I thought those were critical stretches for us. Give them credit."

With the wins, Houston and Villanova will travel to AT&T Center in San Antonio for Sweet 16 games on Thursday. Houston will take on No. 1-seeded Arizona, while Villanova will battle No. 11-seeded Michigan.

Villanova's 2018 run culminated with a title game victory over Michigan at San Antonio's Alamodome.

PPG Paints Arena (formerly CONSOL Energy Center), which previously hosted games in 2012, 2015 and 2018, will see First and Second Round action return to Pittsburgh in 2024.



LUKE HENNE | SPORTS EDITOR

Pittsburgh's PPG Paints Arena was the site of six NCAA Tournament games this past weekend.

2018 and a trip to the Sweet 16 a season ago, the underdog Ramblers were a popular pick to pull an upset over the higher-seeded Buckeyes.

However, despite making just one of 15 attempts from beyond the 3-point line, Ohio State managed to hold Loyola of Chicago to under 45 points for the first time since Jan. 27 in a 54-41 victory.

E.J. Liddell, who scored 16 points and added 10 rebounds, paced the Buckeyes in the victory.



BRENTARO YAMANE | LAYOUT EDITOR

Loyola of Chicago's Sister Jean is escorted out of the building after the Ramblers' loss on Friday.

focus on is [that] the program's in a lot better spot than it was when a lot of these guys got here five years ago."

Friday's second game featured No. 15-seeded Delaware and No. 2-seeded Villanova. In 2018, Villanova's run to a national championship began with two victories in Pittsburgh.

The Wildcats didn't let any thought of an upset prevail, as they bested the Fightin' Blue Hens 80-60 behind game highs in points (21) and assists (six) from Justin Moore.

"We were reading the ball screen coverage and if they were coming to help, who was helping," Moore said. "Once we figured that out, we were able to figure out when we could take our open shots, make that extra pass and find the bigs posting up."

Delaware Head Coach Martin Ingelsby was proud of his team's will to win early, but knew that Villanova's 13-made 3-pointers was the difference in the game.

"We battled. We got after it," Ingelsby said. "I thought we got off to a really, really good start in the first half and put a little scare in them. I think the end of the first half and early part of the second half they were able to really extend that lead, and we were battling uphill from there."

The weekend's closest game opened up Friday's evening session of games, when No. 4-seeded Illinois survived a scare from No. 13-seeded Chattanooga in a 54-53 contest.



BRENTARO YAMANE | LAYOUT EDITOR

Fabian White Jr. (left) and Head Coach Kelvin Sampson (right) helped guide Houston to the Sweet 16 for the third NCAA Tournament in a row.

Goodbye Yellow Brick Road, hello smooth jazz!

CAPRI SCARCELLI
a&e editor

On Sunday, March 20, the Duquesne University Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Vocal Ensemble “crocodile” rocked the night away to celebrate the on-going legacy of pop artist Elton John.

Taking the main stage in the Power Center Ballroom, featured soloists dazzled audiences with John's storytelling and vigor, impressing many with classic hits and hidden gems alike.

Beginning with Goodbye Yellow Brick Road's opener, “Funeral For A Friend / Love Lies Bleeding,” the night's repertoire led the way with instrumental, wispy welcomings to the crowd, transporting the room almost effortlessly. Halfway through the piece, the background jammers became vocalists, and the mood was set for the rest of the night.

Balancing heartfelt ballads with dance anthems, the crowd was alert, but never ready. From the crooning, swaying motions of “Your Song” to the head bobbing of “Saturday Night's All Right (For Fighting),” the audience was immersed in the music and kept on their toes the whole way through. Whether a saxophone's licks, a horn's impressive upper register or a vocalist's option-up in the chorus, the show was full of surprises.

Vocal soloists included Lindsey Vernon, Grace Furman, Nathan Sekela, Eamonn Mailey and Ryleigh Shoff. According to Shoff, senior music therapy and music education major, the jazz vocalists were able to pick the two songs to perform as solos.

“I always loved ‘Goodbye Yellow Brick Road.’ It was always one of my favorites to scream



CAPRI SCARCELLI | A&E EDITOR

Duquesne's jazz ensembles helped audiences remember when rock was young.

in the shower or the car or anywhere else. Also, “The B*tch is Back’ is my anthem, so how could I not do it?,” Schoff said.

Donning bright, sparkly 70s/80s-esque outfits, Schoff said that a few of the soloists made a trip to Buffalo Exchange in the South Side to match the pop artist's energy. Audience members joined in on the fun, wearing their sunglasses indoors.

First year graduate student Alex Luketich was the show's “Rocket Man” for the night, effortlessly plunking away at the piano. Studying jazz performance and jazz composition, Luketich was able to put his talents to the test by arranging “Honky Cat,” “I’m Still Standing” and “Grey Seal” for the night's performance.

“If you listen to the originals on Too Low for Zero and Goodbye Yellow Brick Road, you’ll notice

there aren’t horns in it, yet we have a 22-piece band,” Luketich said. “It’s normally two guitars, the piano and Elton along with some bass and drums. I had to go through, rip through the original recordings and then write down the individual parts and add horns.”

According to Shoff, the ensembles started preparing for the concert on Wednesday — a mere four days before their performance.

“We had an hour to rehearse on Wednesday, and we had a dress rehearsal at 3 p.m. [on Sunday],” Shoff said. “It was absolutely worth it though. It was so fun.”

Director of Jazz Studies Mike Tomaro was the primary conductor, and is a renowned Pittsburgh composer and arranger. For much of the night's repertoire, Tomaro was able to incorporate the skillsets of his ensemble and

add those instruments to John's pieces. According to Tomaro, roughly 200 of his pieces have been produced through the Hal Leonard Corporation.

“It’s a bit of a commitment I enjoy doing,” Tomaro said. “I have pieces of mine scattered all around the world.”

According to Tomaro, this event is recurring each March to give the jazz students an opportunity to expand their repertoire for their future careers. Past pop concerts have included covers from Stevie Wonder, The Beatles, Sting, the Police, 80s pop and Steely Dan.

“We pick the artists who have a great body of music, and Elton was the one this time,” Tomaro said.

Tune into the Jazz Ensemble's next concert on Tuesday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the PNC Recital Hall.

CAMPUS EVENTS

Mean Girls Movie Night
March 24 @ 8 p.m.

Get your pink on and go to College Hall Lawn for an outdoor movie night featuring a 2000s classic.

Karaoke Night
March 25 @ 7 p.m.

Join Towers MPR for singing, snacks and more!

Murder Mystery Night
March 25 @ 8:30 p.m.

Join the Forensic Science fraternity in a game of solving and sleuthing! Winners will receive a basket and free food.

Pure Thirst's Water Walk
March 26 @ 1 p.m.

By participating in this 5k walk, funds go toward providing clean water for women in Africa.

Carmen
March 26 @ 8 p.m.

Enjoy The Pittsburgh Opera's production of Carmen! Tickets available on Cheap Seats.

CAPRI'S KIND WORDS

Outdo Pittsburgh weather

Spring is notoriously a time of rebirth, though it takes place in one of the more stressful parts of our semester. Not to mention, Pittsburgh doesn't believe in consistency with sunny days and gloomy rains.

It's hard to make the most of each day when each one feels as unexpected as the next. However, you determine what each day will hold, whether it be sunshine or rain.

Be easy on yourself in this time frame. It doesn't have to be your very best day when it's shining, and it can still be a day full of success when the clouds are grey. It's up to you, your capabilities and your moods that determine your days from sunrise to sunset.

In the meantime, watch the sun creep in a little earlier as it lingers a little later. Watch flowers begin to bud, and breathe in the air's scent right before a heavy rain.

You are a part of nature, and you

-- Capri Scarcelli

Aquarius

Is it funny? But was it funny? Did you laugh? Please tell me you laughed.

Pisces

Is there any acutal difference between Thursday and Friday

Aries

You look like someone who would order Samoas to prove a point.

Taurus

Is this a girlboss moment or a male validation moment? Choose wisely...

Gemini

Needing validation as a means of basic survival

Cancer

Taylor Swift's "Fifteen" was written about you.

Leo

Ayo, anyone need a tuning note?

Virgo

Correction: crashing and burning is the new wave! It's hip! It's swag!

Libra

You can't remember when rock was young! You weren't there!

Scorpio

Wait, Duolingo isn't sponsoring me?

Sagittarius

Equips sunglasses

Capricorn

Why change oil? Why not: change your zodiac chart <3

Spring is in full bloom at Phipps Conservatory

CAROLINE KUCKO
staff writer

Following an exceptionally gray winter here in Pittsburgh, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens' Spring Flower Show is in full bloom.

According to Director of Marketing and Communications Joe Reed, the staff at Phipps settled on a colorful and uplifting theme for this year's show: "Sunshine and Rainbows."

a towering prop tulip and glowing sun in the Palm Court.

Phipps opened its doors to the annual spring event this past Saturday, March 19. Lasting only four weeks, the Spring Flower Show will run until April 17. Tickets cost \$19.95 for adults and \$17.95 for students with a valid ID.

The Spring Flower Show, a long-standing Pittsburgh tradition since the 1890s, is an immersive aromatic experience that showcases tens

Among the most popular blooms in the show this year is the Himalayan blue poppy.

This particular flower is incredibly difficult to grow and has a very short life span. However, Phipps grows them reliably and brings them out each spring. The Himalayan blue poppy turns heads due to its striking electric blue color.

For employees, putting together the Spring Flower Show is not the easiest process.



COURTESY OF PAUL WIEGMAN

Phipps' vibrance brings an array of color to the dreary Pittsburgh springtime.

"We're always looking for a theme that will put a spring in people's step," Reed said.

The show features a jaw-dropping display in the South Conservatory of a faux cloud and rainbow with cascading flowers of all colors. This display stole the show and quite literally caused visitors to stop in their tracks and take in the scenery. The show also includes

of thousands of spring blooms, according to Phipps' website. The various displays include a myriad of crowd-favorites such as lilies, daffodils and tulips as well as more obscure blossoms including New Guinea impatiens and lobelia.

"Those with a real eagle eye will see some new varieties of blooms that they've probably never seen in our shows before," Reed said.

Since there is merely a two-week turnaround between shows, staff members worked tirelessly throughout the month to cover the conservatory in spring color.

"Not only are we changing out the show to move into spring, but then each day, bulbs need to be changed out," said Reed. "It's a constant changeover."

Phipps is open 9:30 a.m. to 5



COURTESY OF PAUL WIEGMAN

The entrance to the new spring exhibit feels like a breath of fresh air.

p.m. every day apart from Fridays, when it is open until 10 p.m. Although the show is a sight to behold in the daylight, it is a completely different experience at night when the conservatory is lit up with architectural lighting.

Not only can visitors take in the sights and smells of the Spring Flower Show, but they can also explore the Tropical Forest Hawaii exhibit, which was just switched after a lengthy three years of the Cuba Room. This 12,000 square foot, 60-foot high exhibit includes a wide va-

riety of native and endemic species, according to Phipps' website.

Guests can also see the From the Same Bulb exhibit, a photography showcase of a single plant over the span of 17 years. Additionally, Phipps offers a wide variety of virtual events such as virtual classes and film series.

A trip to Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens is the perfect way to step into the new season and experience spring in its full glory. Tickets can be reserved on the Phipps Conservatory website.



CAPRI SCARCELLI | A&E EDITOR

Year-round, Phipps Conservatory blooms in every room of the Botanical Garden.

Pittsburgh Humanities Festival offers conversational art

MIA LUBRANI
staff writer

The Pittsburgh Humanities Festival offers Pittsburghers the chance to step out and partake in a series of intellectually stimulating events. The festival began on March 21 and will run until Sunday, March 27, in the Pittsburgh Cultural District. Here is a list of opportunities for

students, kids and adults to come together and discuss relevant cultural events.

What is it?

The Pittsburgh Humanities Festival events take place specifically at the Byham Theater, Greer Cabaret Theater and Trust Arts Education Center. There is a carefully curated array of presentations planned for the audience. These talks will maintain more of a conversational tone, allowing

viewers to contribute to the discussion along with professionals.

Topics of discussion are both relevant and varied for anyone thinking about heading to the Cultural District. Pittsburgh's history, policies, politics, racial inequities, drag culture, Shakespeare, food, art and more is expected to be included in the event throughout the week.

How much?

It only costs \$10 for a "conversa-

tion ticket," allowing buyers access to 14 events with one purchase. For students, the conversation pass only costs \$5 to learn about Pittsburgh's interesting content.

What's up next?

Some highlights include Shit-faced Shakespeare presenting A Midsummer Night's Dream on March 25. This play, presented at the Byham Theater, is a comedic twist on the original Shakespearean story. The cast will

also be holding a conversation about the process of engaging with the work of Shakespeare on Saturday, March 26 at 3 p.m.

Live music is also being offered in the Greer Cabaret Theater on Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday of the festival.

Tickets are available on the Trust Arts website.

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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

"It is time for parents
to teach young people
early on that in diversity,
there is beauty, and
there is strength."

MAYA ANGELOU

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

@TheDuquesneDuke

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Duquesne Duke is the student-written, student-managed newspaper of Duquesne University. It is published every Thursday during the academic year except during semester breaks and holidays, and prior to final exams. The Staff Editorial is based upon the opinions of the editors of *The Duke* and does not necessarily reflect the views of the students, faculty, administration, student government or the University publications board. Op-ed columns do not reflect the opinions of *The Duke*, but rather are the sole opinions of the columnists themselves.

Letters policy

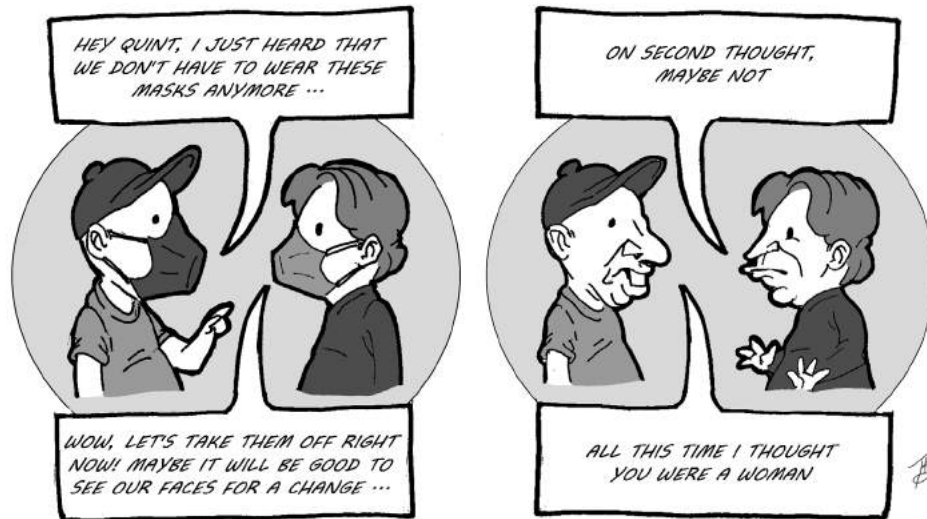
Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced and include the writer's name, school/department and phone number for verification. Letters should be no longer than 300 words and should be delivered to *The Duke* office at 113 College Hall or e-mailed to theduquduke@gmail.com by 5 p.m. Tuesday. The editors reserve the right to edit any and all submitted copies. All letters must be verified before being published.

Corrections/clarifications

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

Contact

email: theduquduke@gmail.com



BENJAMIN CRAWFORD | STAFF COMIC ARTIST

Celebrating Lia Thomas's "first"

Lia Thomas placed last in the 100-yard freestyle swim during the NCAA championships on Saturday. Last place in a collegiate competition typically wouldn't reach newspaper headlines, but the University of Pennsylvania swimmer is a trans woman, and has been at the center of controversy regarding the eligibility to compete in women's events.

The controversy over Thomas's first and last season as a swimmer at UPenn came to a climax last week when she became the first openly trans athlete to win a Division I title in any sport. She placed first in the 500-yard, tied for fifth in the 200 and finally placed eighth in the 100.

With the win and two losses, Thomas was found not to be the best in the sport, despite claims of unfair advantages hailing from students, politicians and everyday Americans alike. Instead, Thomas's achievements show a huge advancement in sports inclusivity, and so far biology hasn't been proven to be a significant advantage.

Women's sports are placed at the convergence of segregation and equality. Sports, unlike restaurants, bathrooms, etc., are a social institution in which segregation is upheld due to biological difference, though equality is also upheld through opportunity — all due to Title IX.

Transgender individuals are a newer subject to be added into the fold, but we should be celebrating inclusion, as well as Thomas's "first" in wins... and losses.

However, policy regarding trans athletes isn't as new as we think. The NCAA approved its first policy on the inclusion of trans athletes in collegiate athletics in 2011. It allowed trans female student-athletes to compete in women's sports if they had been treated with testosterone suppression for at least one year.

A recent update in January 2022 places the responsibility for eligibility on an individual sport. The update coincides with the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee, and the International Olympic Committee. These policies also assert an athlete's right to participate without discrimination and are committed to diversity, inclusion and gender equality.

Those who oppose the inclusion of trans women in women's sports,

most notably Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, argue that they have an unfair competitive edge that takes away the hard work and opportunities presented to cisgender women athletes. DeSantis released a statement declaring Emma Wyant, who came in second place at the championships, as the winner. It also commented on the so-called unfair advantage destroying women's sports:

"The NCAA's actions serve to erode opportunities for women athletes and perpetuate a fraud against women athletes as well as the public at large," the statement read. "Florida rejects the NCAA's efforts to destroy women's athletics, disapproves of the NCAA elevating ideology over biology and takes offense at the NCAA trying to make others complicit in a lie."

However, these assumptions are not grounded in scientific evidence. The claims cloak transphobia in

U.S. military personnel who transitioned while in service maintained an edge after one year of hormone therapy; however, the research carried out by Dr. Timothy Roberts, a pediatrician and associate professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, found that the gap largely closed after two years.

Trans women ran approximately 12% faster than cisgender counterparts, though Roberts's research found no advantage in the push-ups or sit-ups category after the two year period. Roberts noted that although there was still an advantage in running, to be in the top 10% of female runners, you have to be 29% faster than the average woman.

Another study carried out by Joanna Harper, a medical physicist at Loughborough University, found that strength advantages will remain with hormone therapy, though other factors limit this advantage.

Hemoglobin levels are one of the most important physiological factors when it comes to endurance sport. Hemoglobin in the blood transports oxygen throughout the body and the muscles. Since hemoglobin levels follow testosterone levels, cisgender men typically have higher hemoglobin levels than cisgender women.

But Harper's study found that testosterone suppression reduces hemoglobin levels in trans women to that of cisgender women, and eliminates the advantage. Moreover, factors such as technique, equipment, hand-eye coordination, coaching and more all factor into the success of an athlete. Biological make-up can only take an athlete so far.

Sport as a culture is a spearhead in change that reflects on our society, and it doesn't happen in a linear fashion. Many athletes of the past such as Jackie Robinson are hailed for "breaking the color barrier" though the celebration of these "firsts" in sports weren't received well in their time.

Many of the athletes who became the "first" encounter resistance, especially from those who have historically benefited from the status quo. But Thomas's "first" story exhibits the same sort of resilience and love for sport. She should be celebrated as any other athlete for making progress toward true diversity, equity and inclusion.



ZOE STRATOS
opinions editor

scare tactics that distract people, specifically cisgender women, from the discriminatory intent. They are rooted in societal and cultural definitions of what defines a woman.

As of now, there hasn't been enough research to confidently make the claims, and the small amount of research done on the topic notes little difference in competitive edge with hormone therapy.

According to Deutsche Welle, one of Germany's most successful international media outlets, few studies have been done on trans athlete participation, though some papers were published leading up to the 2020 Olympic Games.

A study done by the British Journal of Sports Medicine found that

STAFF
EDITORIAL

We should help Ukraine in more ways than one

As Ukraine is continually bombarded with Russian aggression, the United States as a part of NATO has decided to intervene. One way in which the U.S. has offered aid is in the form of security assistance. But how far is the U.S. willing to go to help their allies?

According to whitehouse.gov, President Biden announced that an additional \$800 million in security assistance will be added to the growing budget that has been set aside to aid Ukraine. This assistance package includes grenade launchers, rifles, pistols, machine guns, ammunition and an array of other military supplies.

"The United States continues to expedite the authorization and facilitation of additional assistance to Ukraine from our Allies," according to whitehouse.gov.

With one of the largest militaries in the world, it makes sense that the U.S. would be able to aid Ukraine in this way. In addition, with a military defense budget that spans about \$777.7 billion, we have the funding necessary to help. The base budget alone for the Department of Defense is \$740 billion. We should be utilizing what we have in order to help the cause.

Additional aid that will be sent to Ukraine includes anti-aircraft systems, tactical unmanned aerial systems, helicopters, counter-artillery, high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles (HMMWVs) and a plethora of multi-faceted equipment.

As a part of NATO, the U.S. along with the other 30 member states from North America and Europe, are obligated to contribute to peace and security on the international stage according to nato.usmission.gov. If diplomatic efforts were to fail, together they have the military capacity to act as a positive force for change and meet the security challenges.

"Article Five of the treaty states that if an armed attack occurs against one of the member states, it should be considered an attack against all members, and other members shall assist the attacked member with armed forces if necessary," nato.usmission.gov said.

The U.S. is implementing security assistance. Many of the NATO allies should follow suit and consider either sending military aid - if they have not already done so - or aid in another fashion since an attack on one is an attack on all.

We should continue to help Ukraine, not just in a military aspect, but in others as well. President Biden, in an effort to halt Russia in their tracks, has implemented several sanctions as a means of stopping them. But will sanctions be enough to delay Russia's plans? A team effort is necessary in order to help the cause and mend what has already been a devastating situation.

Access to vaccines: Let pharmacy employees give more shots

MOHAMMAD SAJJAD
staff columnist

Think about the last time you received a vaccine. Chances are that it was administered by either a pharmacist or another pharmacy employee. With 90% of Americans living within five miles of a pharmacy, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, pharmacies have proven to be some of the most accessible health and wellness centers in the country in terms of immunizations.

Due to the pandemic, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy student interns in Pennsylvania have had the opportunity to vaccinate patients as young as 3 years old through federal and state-issued emergency waivers.

Prior to the pandemic, in the pharmacy, only patients above the age of 18 could receive vaccinations, with the exception of the flu vaccine for patients above the age of 9. Additionally, the only professional in the pharmacy who was allowed to administer these vaccines was the pharmacist.

Unfortunately, the pandemic waivers are set to expire at the end of March, which means that many pediatric patients will lose convenient access to life-saving vaccines. State senators and rep-



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

State senators and representatives have drafted House Bill 1535 and Senate Bill 511, which would give pharmacy employees full vaccination authority.

representatives have drafted House Bill 1535 (HB 1535) and Senate Bill 511 (SB 511), which would give pharmacy employees full vaccination authority, but the bills have been unable to reach the floor for a vote.

Pharmacists, technicians and interns in Pennsylvania should be granted full authority to vaccinate patients above the age of 3. Not only are they fully capable of doing so, but granting them this authority will improve patient outcomes and decrease health care costs.

Pharmacy employees undergo extensive training to be able to vaccinate patients. Through the

American Pharmacists Association (APhA), they undergo accredited training, which includes learning hands-on injection techniques and how to recognize and treat emergency reactions to vaccines. Depending on the pharmacy, there may be additional training required for employees.

Aside from being qualified to vaccinate patients, giving pharmacy employees full authority to immunize will have profound effects on the health care system.

Primary care in the United States is at a crossroads right now. According to the Association of American Medical Col-

leges (AAMC), there will be a projected shortage of nearly 50,000 primary care physicians in the U.S. by 2034, which means many people may lose access to vaccines.

Having the opportunity for more patients to receive vaccines at their local pharmacy will ensure people won't lose access to this critical preventative measure, as vaccines have shown to be effective in decreasing hospitalizations and preventing transmission of viruses. While patients are at the pharmacy receiving their vaccines, primary care physicians will have the opportunity to focus their time and energy on more complex cases.

Decreasing hospitalizations and preventing transmission of viruses will ultimately result in a decrease in healthcare spending as well. The \$40 that is spent on giving a vaccine to a patient is considerably less than the thousands of dollars spent on treating a patient with Covid-19 in the hospital, for example.

Speaking of cost, it will cost even less for a pharmacist to administer a vaccine, compared to their physician colleagues. According to the Pacific Research Institute, the average direct medical costs paid per adult vaccination were 16 to 26% lower in pharmacies compared to physician practices.

It is especially important that technicians and pharmacy student interns continue to have full authority in terms of vaccinating patients. Pharmacists have a lot on their plates as it is, from checking prescriptions to counseling patients on medications. Allowing technicians and pharmacy student interns to continue to have full authority to immunize will lessen the burden of pharmacists and allow them to focus more on clinical duties.

Pharmacy employees have shown their impact when it comes to vaccinating patients. According to the CDC, as of March 17, more than 234 million doses of the Covid vaccine have been administered and reported by retail pharmacies across the United States.

Through the School of Pharmacy, I had the opportunity earlier this month to speak to state legislators in Harrisburg on the importance of granting full vaccinating authority to pharmacy employees. While it was a memorable experience, more work needs to be done on our part.

Contact your local representative and voice your support in putting HB 1535 and SB 511 on the agenda to vote them out of their respective committees and onto the floor. It's about time we let our pharmacy employees practice to their full potential.

The benefit of the doubt is reserved for men

ZACHARY PETROFF
staff columnist

This weekend, we saw a quarterback who is accused by 22 separate women of sexual assault rewarded with a \$230 million contract. It is the most guaranteed amount of money in the history of the National Football League by \$50 million.

The Cleveland Browns - the team that picked up Deshaun Watson - was able to construct his contract in a way so that when he is undoubtedly suspended for a portion of the season, there will be little economic impact on him.

Watson is going to gross very close to \$230 million.

He will not be charged with a crime. A grand jury did not believe that there was enough evidence to charge Watson, but several civil suits are still pending.

The Watson trade is yet another clear example of male privilege in our society, and those who refuse to acknowledge that male privilege exists are willfully ignorant. The question is not the existence of male privilege, but to what extent it plays a role in the justice system..

The more privilege one has, the larger the scope of the benefit of the doubt. It is almost like a point system. For every non-controllable

attribute that one has in common with the morals of white Protestant males, the realm of the benefit of doubt increases. There is a hypocrisy to this. Former NFL QB and known creep Ben Roethlisberger was my favorite player. I had a signed autograph picture proudly displayed - One of my favorite things to do was wear my Roethlisberger jersey in bars in Northeastern Ohio just to be that guy. Every March 2, I would post on social media to remind people to wish Big Ben a happy birthday.

I also justified his actions. I read the police reports and was able to craft an argument in which I was able to adamantly support a man who by all accounts did horrible things to very young women and walked away with very few repercussions. I did this because he played a sport for a team that I liked.

As someone who was a winner in the economic/genetic lottery, there are times when it feels that my privilege knows no boundaries. This is not what some would classify as white male guilt but rather an acknowledgement of how things are right now.

It is gross, I was gross. The level of hypocrisy that comes with supporting a QB who sexually assaulted a woman while claiming to be a forward, progressive thinker is laughable. I have sisters and nieces who I claim to adore, but how is

that possible when I was actively promoting a man whose existence in popular culture is a slap to the face of every woman who has faced sexual trauma in their life?

It is so hard to prove sexual assault in trial. It is an emotionally taxing experience that makes it almost impossible to prove. Imagine having one of the worst things ever to happen to you, then you have to try to prove it.

The benefit of doubt will always go with the man. Again, thinking otherwise is woefully ignorant.

How important is our entertainment to us?

I understand the significance that sports play in our lives. The lore that is sports is remarkable and impactful. Sports can transcend a community, bring platforms, shape public discourse and inspire us to be a version of ourselves that we want to be. There is a clear romanticism in sports.

Yet as these young athletes become more celebrated and accessible to the masses through social media, at what level do we hold actions accountable to those that commit atrocities?

How can we spend a news cycle condemning Aaron Rodgers for being annoying about vaccines, yet decline to properly hold a man accountable, who had at least 22 separate women come forward.

The way the sports media talks about this should be making us all



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

After being traded from the Houston Texans to the Cleveland Browns this weekend, quarterback Deshaun Watson signed a historic \$230-million contract.

a little sick to our stomach.

We had a ton of politicians base a portion of their campaigns around a guy who knelt during an anthem, yet remain silent about a man who is being rewarded for allegedly sexually assaulting 22 women.

Everyone is innocent until proven guilty. That is the beauty of our justice system.

It would just be nice if we could extend the benefit of the doubt to the victims.

I find it very telling that there was more of a public outrage against a college swimmer than a man who committed sexual assault. Maybe if Lia Thomas would have committed sexual assault we could look past the horror of a trans woman participating in college athletics.

Culture at Duquesne: African Marketplace brings international influence to the Pittsburgh community



MEGAN TROTTER | STAFF WRITER

The Shepherd's Door is a non-profit storefront in Bellevue that gives back to the community. Aldrea Reese-Brown (left) and Peggy Heartman (right), store manager, sold homemade giftware at the African Marketplace.

MEGAN TROTTER
staff writer

Duquesne's Center for African Studies hosted their biannual African Marketplace on Wednesday, March 23, featuring several African-themed businesses and vendors.

Dozens of people filtered through the Union Atrium, avoiding the afternoon rain as they stopped to take a look at the many products and companies that set up shop.

In the past, The Center for African Studies put on Africa Week, which focused on the promotion and teaching of African culture, according to Cassie DiBenedetti, a student aid at the Center.

The purpose of these events is to encourage students to major or minor in African Studies, she said.

Since the marketplace had always been a

big hit, they decided to "rebrand" and have the popular event take place more frequently.

The Center for African Studies partners with companies all over Pittsburgh, hoping to help with business promotion and cultural learning events.

As part of the fun, Melissa Jenkins, a dance instructor and founder of Afro Love PGH brought a speaker and showed off some of her dance moves.

"I want to create a platform to bring people together," Jenkins said, "so I can share the love that I have for this culture and dance."

In bringing in choreographers directly from Africa she hopes for her studio to be a space where anyone can feel comfortable to learn and to create bridges between cultures.

Many of the vendors at the marketplace were non-profits, with a majority of their staff made up of volunteers.

One of the non-profits, The Shepherd's Door, Bellevue, was started around 40 years ago by a retired schoolteacher.

"Part of our mission is to continue to be that light," said Peggy Heartman, the current store manager.

Oftentimes, Heartman explained, people come in just to talk or pray. She said one of her favorite things about Shepherd's Door is the mix of people that come together—regardless of their own personal denomination—and work to refer those struggling to places that can help.

The same inclusivity could be seen across the market, where the vendors themselves were of a variety of backgrounds, but each inspired by and dedicated to sharing African culture.

Justin Forzano, the founder and CEO of Open Field, a youth development organization, works to promote life skills, leadership, female empowerment and community development. With over 1,000 kids in the program, Open Field helps support immigrant refugee youth.

During one of his many trips to Cameroon, Forzano said he was inspired by the colorful

African shirts. He decided to bring a few back to sell and "share the love" with the students of Duquesne.

Freshman Maria Weideman said that while she had no idea the event was going on until passing by during a coffee run, she thinks it is really cool that Duquesne is exposing students to these types of organizations and making everyone more aware of other cultures.

The other businesses at the marketplace included New Hope, Ten Thousand Villages, PSquare Scents and City Grows LLC. Each vendor brought a unique message of diversity to the market, some supporting cultural traditions from around the world.

For students who entered the Union expecting just to get some homework done or maybe grab a coffee, they left instead with a collection of jewelry, plants, books, candles, coffee and a greater understanding of African culture.



MEGAN TROTTER | STAFF WRITER

The non-profit Building New Hope, which brought a coffee display to the African Marketplace, is managed by Soledad Cabezas and distributes locally-grown coffee to support two schools in Nicaragua.

Duquesne University and Point Park University Host "Get to the Point" PRSSA District Conference; Share Professional Tips

EMMA POLEN
features editor

Pittsburgh's Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) is hosting its annual conference at Duquesne and Point Park universities on April 1 and 2. This year's conference, themed "Get to the Point," will teach local college and high school students, as well as young professionals, skills for navigating the ever-changing world of public relations.

"Attendees will hear from professionals in the PR industry," said Alyson Huth, president of the PRSSA chapter at Duquesne. "They can engage in a panel with young professionals and ask questions about their careers, and they will have the opportunity to network with public relation professionals in the community of Pittsburgh."

Over the span of two days, PRSSA student organizers from both Duquesne and Point Park will lead attendees across campus-wide activities that will prepare them for a career in the field of public relations and advertising. Activities will include keynote addresses, breakout sessions, agency tours, networking, and a young professionals panel featuring Duquesne alumni.

The event begins Friday, April 1, at Duquesne.

From 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., PRSSA student volunteers will lead attendees through agency tours of Downtown Pittsburgh BCW, Red Havas, Highmark and Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership.

Following registration at 6 p.m., a keynote address by Deana Tomaselli from Motherhood and networking will end the night at 8 p.m.

On Saturday, April 2, attendees will start with registration at 8:15 a.m. at Point Park and a keynote address by Paul Furiga, president of WordWrite. Saturday will also feature multiple speaker sessions by public relations professionals from around Pittsburgh until 4:15, when attendees are invited to converse with the young professionals panel.

The district conference will conclude at 6 p.m. with a final keynote address about networking by Dan Ayer, co-founder, writer, director of PR and social media at Oyster Creative.

The event will bring together influential individuals from across the Pittsburgh public relations community.

"The public relations community in Pittsburgh is very strong. They really support students and their efforts to enter the field," said Camille Downing, faculty advisor of PRSSA at Point Park. "Having that time to meet face to face is invaluable."

The networking portion of the conference will be beneficial to students looking to expand their connections in the professional PR world. Public relations professionals will be there for a variety of reasons, and some might be searching for potential job candidates.

"Networking is one of the most important aspects of the PR field," Huth said. "Most of the time it's not what you know, it's who you know. You never know who's hiring, and maybe you'll come out of the weekend with a job!"

Guest speakers will be discussing a variety of interesting emerging PR techniques.

"Students will learn about selling your story and network, TikTok and Social Media, PR During the Pandemic, Non Profit Communications, Remote PR, and Successful Campaigns," said Huth, naming a few of the events that students will have the chance to listen to at the conference.

The PRSSA 2022 Get to the Point District Conference is open to anyone looking to gain knowledge of the ever-changing PR industry. Registration is open through March 30, and attendees can purchase a full-access ticket for \$40 at 2022gettothepoint.com.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE PRSSA

Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA), Pittsburgh's chapter, will be hosting its annual conference, with this year's theme "Get to the Point."

The Duquesne Duke

JOIN US FOR OUR WEEKLY **STAFF**
MEETINGS



EVERY **FRIDAY**
FROM 1-2 P.M. IN
COLLEGE HALL

PITCH STORY
IDEAS AND GET
TO KNOW THE
EDITORIAL STAFF!

EMAIL
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF COLLEEN HAMMOND AT
THEDUQDUKE@GMAIL.COM

OR VISIT US IN
COLLEGE HALL 113

visit
our
website
at

duqsm
.com

COMIC
ARTIST
Needed
for THE DUKE



Visit us
at the newsroom in
113 College Hall
or email us at
hammond@duq.edu



Writers & Photographers needed for the Duke

Come Visit Us **Contact our Editor-in-Chief**
College Hall 113 hammond@duq.edu



Get Updates INSTANTLY

Facebook
The Duquesne Duke

Instagram
@TheDuquesneDuke

Twitter
@TheDuquesneDuke
@TDD_Sports

Online at
www.duqsm.com

Follow **THE DUKE**
on Social Media

**FOLLOW
THE DUKE
ON THE
WEB**

Instagram
*@TheDuquesne
Duke*

Facebook
The Duquesne Duke

Twitter
*@TheDuquesne
Duke*

**Advertise
with us!**
duqdukeads@gmail.com

**FOLLOW
US ON
TWITTER**



@theduquesneduke

**[YOUR
AD
HERE]**

Contact
Erin Carbone at
duqdukeads@gmail.com



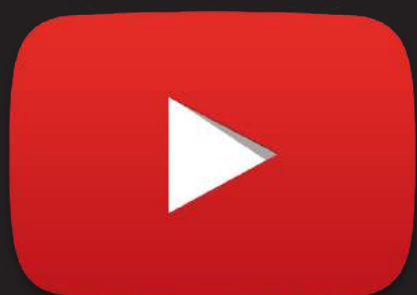
**Writers & Photographers
needed for the Duke**

Come Visit Us
College Hall 113

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

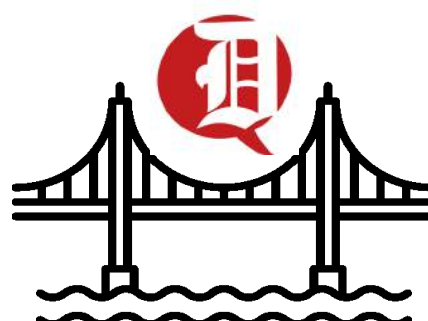


Follow us on Instagram
@TheDuquesneDuke



**Subscribe to
The
Duquesne
Duke
Today!**

**The Duquesne Duke
supports local businesses**



**ADVERTISE WITH US
TODAY!**

Visit our
website at
duqsm.com



**LISTEN
LIVE 24/7**
*DUQSM.COM/
WDSR/*