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# SGA election results soon to be announced

**ZACHARY PETROFF**  
staff writer

Even though the official results of Duquesne's Student Government Association (SGA) have not been officially released, the annual election saw "historic numbers" in terms of voter turnout according to the re-elected Vice President of Communications, Ethan Delp. Through Campus Link students were able to vote for members on the executive board, open senate seats, Residence Hall Association (RHA) representatives and the Com-muter council.

On Wednesday March 23, in order to get more voter participation, the SGA set up a table on the third floor of the Student Union where students could partake in making campaign buttons, register for lucrative prizes, and enjoy donuts from Peace, love and Little Donuts.

"I was very surprised because a lot of times when students see tabeling they will avoid it or try not to make eye contact just because they're busy. I was very surprised and happy to see the amount of engagement we got to people just coming up and being interested in what we were doing," Delp said. "It shows that our efforts were fruitful, and it's something that I am definitely committed to for next year: making a big deal out of elections."

While voter turn-out was greater than most years, involvement in SGA continues to look for members to participate in student government. The SGA is still looking for members to fill the numerous vacant senate seats.

According to the newly elected vice president of student life, Na-

**see SGA — page 2**

# THE DUQUESNE DUKE

**Proudly Serving Our Campus Since 1925**

## College of Osteopathic Medicine gains city approval



LUKE HENNE | SPORTS EDITOR

The City Planning Commission's approval of the College of Osteopathic Medicine is significant because it provides the last approval needed to acquire a building permit so the construction process can begin on site, according to Rod Dobish, Duquesne associate vice president and chief facilities officer.

**LUKE HENNE**  
sports editor

After receiving approval from Pittsburgh's Planning Commission on March 22, Duquesne University now has the green light to continue in its plans to construct the building that will house the school's College of Osteopathic Medicine.

The college, which is tentatively scheduled to open in time for the fall 2024 semester, will be built close to the intersection of Forbes Avenue and Magee Street, just across from the university's UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse.

Rod Dobish, Duquesne's associate vice president and chief facilities officer, said that while the approval was expected and consistent with Pittsburgh's project development guidelines, it's still an important step.

"City Planning's approval of the COM is significant in that it provides the last approval needed to acquire a building permit so we can begin the construction process on the site and the building can begin to take shape," Dobish said.

With the multipurpose athletic facility and osteopathic medicine school figuring to

become integral parts of Pittsburgh's Uptown neighborhood in the immediate future, many like Dobish are grateful for the neighborhood's compliance throughout the process.

"Duquesne University is proud to be part of the Uptown community, and this facility will engage the neighborhood in positive ways, including increasing foot traffic," Dobish said. "A critical part of the city's approval process is to engage the community through a recognized community organization, which is Uptown Partners of Pittsburgh."

"They have been supportive of the project throughout the approval process."

Dobish believes that the building process will provide an economic boost, especially following the ramifications caused by Covid-19.

"The construction phase of this project alone will create more than 600 jobs on a direct and indirect basis," Dobish said. "In addition, the COM will allow the university to do its part to alleviate the shortage of primary care physicians in the region."

"One of the many things we experienced during Covid is how taxing the pandemic was on medical facilities and per-

sonnel. This new college will train and educate the next generation of doctors."

With the approval officially in place, Dobish said the next steps are already getting underway.

"The general contractor, Ryccon Construction, has mobilized and is on site doing grading and preparing the site for construction activities," Dobish said. "One of the first things you will see on the site is drilling for caissons, which are supporting structures for steel that will be erected after the concrete cais-

sons are installed.

"Steel will then arrive and everyone will get to see the building take shape. By the time students return to campus in the fall, there will be a great deal of activity on the site."

After the osteopathic medicine school received a \$3 million grant from the Henry L. Hillman Foundation in late January, Dr. John Kauffman — who is tentatively set to serve as the college's dean — told *The Duke* last month that such a grant will

**see OSTEO — page 2**



COURTESY OF SLAM COLLABORATIVE ARCHITECTS

With technologically advanced facilities and equipment, Duquesne will provide students with a medical education experience not available at other schools and universities.



## POLICE BRIEFS

### Tuesday, March 22-

A witness saw from the Brottier Hall dorm room a male suspect stumble into a white Kia Soul on Locust Street, and McAnulty Drive. The male pulled away from the curb, struck a vehicle and kept driving up Locust. When the vehicle was stopped the driver appeared under the influence and was arrested for suspicion of DUID.

### Wednesday, March 23-

A student living in Duquesne Towers reported his dorm room was entered and an item was taken. Report made. Case close.

## 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 hammond@duq.edu.

## COVID-19

## NUMBERS

SCAN HERE FOR  
COVID-19 DATA



# Student senators soon to be sworn in

see SGA — page 1

than Giercznski, and Coludio Cione, vice president of finance; as of now the School of Business, the School of Liberal Arts nor the School of nursing have any senatorial seats filled.

Every student is a senator-at-large and has the ability to become a senator for their specific school of study through an annual election or through a matriculation process. The matriculation process requires students to come to two consecutive SGA meetings and fulfill official office hours by sitting in a senate office during official hours.

Once these requirements are met, students can petition to become a senator, in which the existing members of the senate will hold a vote.

Currently, the SGA has around 22 participants with only 16 members acting in the Congress leaving many

senatorial seats for the various schools on campus unrepresented.

"We organized this event with some giveaways for election day to try to promote SGA because as backwards as you may think, we don't really like to run unopposed," Giercznski said. "We'd like to have as many students as possible involved in SGA."

While SGA does not have overall power to supplement sweeping changes, they are able to use their connections to make various changes when needed such as the continuation of the "Covid Rebuilding Fund" that allotted a certain amount of money in the budget to help clubs rebuild income lost due to Covid.

The commencement for the 51 senate will be on April 10th in room 203 of the Law Building. This meeting will be open to all of the student body.



COURTESY OF THE CREATIVE COMMONS

Every student has the opportunity to be a senator-at-large and has the ability to become a senator for their specific school of study through an electoral process. Currently SGA has around 22 participants and 16 active members.

# COM takes next step in the building process

see OSTEOPATHIC — page 1

help enable and ease the recruitment of future students.

"Training physicians for the twenty-first century requires state-of-the-art facilities filled with technologically advanced equipment," Kauffman said.

"This grant will allow us to provide state-of-the-art facilities, as well as the latest cutting-edge equipment to train physicians ready to enter the modern healthcare workforce."

Kauffman said that modernized and innovative technology will be at the students' disposal.

"By training our students with the latest technology, they will be better prepared to practice medicine, gain the best possible education and will have a deeper understanding of the latest technology used in hospitals and practices," Kauffman said last month. "As part of accomplishing that goal, our medical students' training will include ultrasound and the latest in holographic anatomy education, utilizing the HoloLens [a head-mounted display that offers users the chance to engage with Microsoft's Mixed Reality platform]."

Dobish offered similar thoughts, saying that the facility and its technology could and should set Duquesne apart from many universities.

"With its technologically advanced facilities and equipment, Duquesne will provide students with a medical education experience not available at most other medical schools," Dobish said.

"These state-of-the-art facilities, coupled with our focus on service and health disparities, will help us recruit the best and brightest students to train here

at Duquesne."

He added that the college will stay consistent with one of the university's goals: assisting its students during and following their time at Duquesne.

"The COM embodies Duquesne's mission to serve students, so they can serve others," Dobish said. "The new college will expand Pittsburgh's contributions to medical excellence, educating and training future doctors to help alleviate a national shortage."

"These doctors will also help address community health needs, especially in underserved urban and rural areas."

Per an August 2019 release, the college will become the second medical school in Pittsburgh and the first Catholic osteopathic medicine school in Pennsylvania.

Duquesne anticipates that the COM, which officially broke ground with a formal ceremony on March 1, will see an inaugural class of 75 students before growing its enrollment to approximately 600 students by the time it reaches its full development.



COURTESY OF SLAM COLLABORATIVE ARCHITECTS

The College of Osteopathic Medicine is looking to stay consistent with one of the university's goals: assisting students during their time at Duquesne.

# Donate with Delta Sigma Pi

ISABELLA ABBOTT  
staff writer

America's foremost co-ed national business fraternity, Delta Sigma Pi Theta Rho, has partnered with Heroes For The Homeless for a month-long donation drive at the university.

HFTH, an all-volunteer outreach, supplies items vital to the mental health and survival of the homeless, who need help now more than ever. The drive will provide the homeless community with many practical and survival items that tend to go overlooked.

Vice President of Community Service for Delta Sigma Pi, Hilarie Walsh, says the collection is going well so far, and she's hoping for

more participation in the final days of the drive.

"There's still a few more days left of collections so let's get as many donations as possible," Walsh said.

Students can donate items like crackers, granola bars, water bottles, socks, batteries and peanut butter, which are typically items not collected by other charities and nonprofits but are vital to our homeless population's survival.

Throughout the month of March until April 5th, HFTH will be collecting these items, which will later be packaged and distributed to the homeless population of greater Pittsburgh.

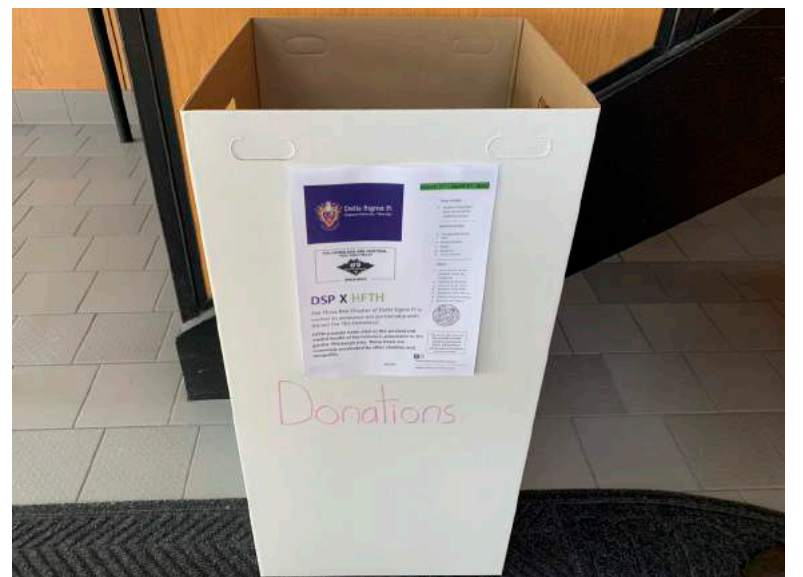
Students can find donation boxes throughout campus on the second

floor of the Student Union by Starbucks and at the entrance of living-learning centers Vickroy, St. Ann's, Brottier, Des Places and Assumption.

If students are unable to donate practical food or survival items, they can visit the Delta Sigma Pi or the Heroes For The Homeless Instagram pages and use the QR code provided to make monetary donations, which will be used to purchase the items needed.

There is also a link to the Gofundme on each flier posted around campus for students' convenience.

"We haven't gotten as much participation from the campus as we were hoping, but we're still very appreciative of those who have donated," Walsh said.



MARY LIZ FLAVIN | NEWS EDITOR

Delta Sigma Pi has teamed up with Heroes for the Homeless in a month-long donation drive. Students are encouraged to donate granola bars, water bottles, socks and batteries. Donation boxes can be found all over campus.



# Kayla Harris awarded Newman Civic Fellowship

ALICIA DYE  
staff writer

Whether it be the Duquesne community or a community in Houston, Texas, Kayla Harris will always be the first to try and help make it better that community. Harris is all about helping people in different communities, and that's how she became a Newman Civic Fellow.

The Newman Civic Fellowship recognizes and supports

community-committed students who are changemakers and public problem-solvers. Students are nominated by their university president on the basis of their potential public leadership, according to its website.

Harris was nominated by Duquesne President Ken Gormley, and didn't even know about the fellowship at first.

"When [he] nominated me and I found out, I felt a lot of

emotions. I didn't even know about this fellowship until they told me about it," Harris said. "I didn't really know what to do at that moment."

Harris is currently a student in the Masters of Education in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, but many know her as their former Resident Assistant or as one of the most active people on campus.

From being a Resident Assistant for three years in St. Martins Hall, being the former vice president of the Duquesne Black Student Union, being a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., being a part of Strong Women, Strong Girls and being a member of the Community Engagement Scholars program, Harris has been involved in so many clubs and activities on campus.

"When I came to Duquesne as a transfer, I tried a little bit of everything," Harris said. "I realized that community engagement lacked diversity and I wanted to change that,"

Harris grew up in Beaver County, a predominantly white area where it was hard to create a community, which is why she joined Center for Community-Engaged Teaching and Research's Community (GETR) Engagement Scholars program and continues to work with them in her free time as a graduate student.

"I wanted to maximize myself for the community. I wanted to learn more about these communities, and I wanted to make sure that the community isn't overlooked," Harris said.

Anthony Kane, the director of Center for Excellence in Diversity and Student Inclusion and one of Harris' mentors, says that the Community Engagement Scholars program helped Harris become who she is.

"CETR has allowed Kayla to tap into who she is as a leader and who she is as a person. She's unapologetically herself because of the program," Kane said.

Kane has known Harris since she transferred to Duquesne and has worked on projects with her throughout her time at Duquesne. Kane is proud of Harris for being named a Newman Civic Fellow.

"I'm extremely happy and proud of her. It's a testament to the potential that she has," Kane said.

Harris still does work with CETR. She's the student development graduate assistant for CETR and gets to oversee the current Community Engagement Scholars and helps them grow.

"It's a full circle for me. I started out as a scholar, and now I'm helping new scholars. I love it," Harris said.

Harris is also involved with Spiritan Campus Ministry, where she recently went on a mission trip to Houston, Texas, where she found out she was awarded the fellowship in an unconventional way.

"I didn't really have service while we were there. I kept getting 'Congratulations' texts and I was like 'Congratulations for what?' I really had no idea that I got the fellowship until later. I finally got service, and I saw the

emails from President Gormley and from Campus Contact and realized I got the fellowship," said Harris.

President Gormley is thrilled that Harris was selected to be a Newman Civic Fellow.

"I am thrilled that a changemaker like Kayla has been selected for such a distinguished honor," Gormley said in an official news release. "Kayla lives out our Duquesne mission by standing up for equity and opportunity in Pittsburgh-being named a Newman Civic Fellow is a testament to her ability to ignite positive change."

The fellowship is a year-long program where Campus Contact, the foundation that does the Newman Civic Fellowship, provides students with training and helps them develop strategies for social change. The program also provides exclusive postgraduate job opportunities for the fellows.

"She's a go-getter and this fellowship allows her to grow even more," Kane said.

Harris is excited for the work she will be able to do with the fellowship, as she always wants to help communities.

"It's rewarding work. It makes you open your eyes to things that are happening in the community," Harris said.

Harris is thrilled to continue her work with CETR and can't wait to do more.

"It helped me grow in so many different ways," Harris said. "I'm constantly wanting to be better and wanting to help these communities thrive."



COURTESY OF KAYLA HARRIS

The Newman Civic Fellowship recognizes and supports those who are community-committed and who consider themselves public problem-solvers.

## The Spiritan Campus Ministry Center answers Pope Francis' call: Let's Walk Together

MEGAN TROTTER  
staff writer

The Spiritan Campus Ministry Center answers Pope Francis' call by holding two upcoming Synod Listening Sessions on April 4 and April 7 at 7:30 p.m. for anyone to attend.

In October 2021, Pope Francis opened a synod which called for the world to gather and listen collectively. This year is special because the synod is open to everyone's input, rather than just to bishops as is typical with important religious councils.

"Synod" means to journey and walk together in Greek. These meetings have been done throughout history as a way for the Catholic Church to ensure that everyone is on their religious journey together.

The theme for this year's synod is "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission."

Since such a huge event is open to the public, Spiritan Campus Ministries encourages students to respond to the invitation and to

prepare and think about the topics to share their thoughts.

The sessions will be held in the Spiritan Campus Ministry Center on the second floor of Towers.

In the spirit of "walking together," Campus Ministries has gone out of its way to invite special moderators as well as people who might feel they struggle to have their voice heard in the church.

"All are welcome to attend, no matter what denomination," the website said.

This particular event is important because it allows people from Catholic universities worldwide to participate.

"Schools are one of the key areas where the Catholic Church is 'traveling together' with people of many other faith traditions," said Fr. Bill Christy, Director of Spiritan Campus Ministry, in an email.

For Duquesne students, this is the chance to be a part of an event where their voices will be heard and reflected upon.

After each listening session, the moderator will make a re-

port using student responses to be submitted to the Diocese of Pittsburgh. The results are then sent from the Diocese to the Vatican for Pope Francis to look over.

Pope Francis' goal for the synod is to figure out the best way to continue to proclaim the Gospel in today's day and age.

The Pope proposed these three questions for discussion as part of the synod: "What does it mean for a community to walk together? What does walking together look like today in our community? What steps does the spirit invite us to take to grow in our walking together?"

"Let's do this together! No one gets excluded or left behind," the website said.

**Listening Sessions**  
**April 4 and April 7**  
**at 7:30 p.m.**



COURTESY OF SPIRITAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

The theme for this year's synod is "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission." The sessions will be held in the Spiritan Campus Ministry Center on the second floor of Towers.



## Bowling team finishes fourth in NEC tournament

**LUKE HENNE**  
sports editor

After dropping two contests, the Duquesne bowling team finished in fourth place at last week's Northeast Conference Women's Bowling Championship at Hamilton Lanes & Entertainment Center in Hamilton Township, N.J.

The Dukes — ranked No. 12 in the NCAA's March 22 Ratings Power Index (RPI) poll — fell to No. 11 Mount St. Mary's in the opening match on March 24 before losing to No. 20 Long Island in Friday's elimination match.

Duquesne Head Coach Jody Fetterhoff, while disappointed in the outcome, knew that the opponents would be formidable.

"We bowled really well but split at the wrong times, and credit goes to Mount and LIU for capitalizing on those mistakes," Fetterhoff said.

"... It's definitely hard to bowl so well, yet it wasn't enough to win our matches."

Shannon Small said that while she and her teammates competed hard, their opponents delivered when it mattered most.

"Individually and team wise, I feel like we all did really well," Small said. "We shot a lot of high games and made our spares, but the other teams just seem to have been able to string strikes at more crucial times than we were."

Thursday's action between the Mountaineers and Dukes got underway with a traditional round in which Mount St. Mary's bested Duquesne by a pin count of 1129-1084. In the defeat, all five Duquesne bowlers posted a 200 or better: Jessica Cadez at 233, Ranelle Ulanday at 227, Olivia Farwell at 212, Small at 210 and Kiearra Saldi at 202.

Duquesne bounced back in the baker round, winning by a pin count of 1138-938 to even the contest.

However, the Mountaineers used a 4-2 edge in the best-of-7 round to win the overall contest by a 2-1 count and move into the winner's bracket, while the Dukes were pushed to the brink of elimination from the tournament.

In Friday's elimination match, Duquesne came out strong against Long Island, winning the traditional round with a 1209-1065 win over the Sharks. Aided by performances from Farwell (278) and Cadez (256), Duquesne's pin total of 1209

tournament, subsequently removing Duquesne from title contention.

Despite coming away without a win, players like Saldi said the weekend was an enjoyable one.

"The experience itself is always an exciting and intense competition," Saldi said. "We bowl against these teams throughout the season, so we know the tough competition that we are up against, which always makes for a suspenseful and highly anticipated tournament."

"We are very lucky to be in this conference and have the opportunity to compete against these other amaz-



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Duquesne players celebrate during Friday's elimination match against Long Island at the Northeast Conference Women's Bowling Championship.

set a school record.

However, Long Island swiftly bounced back, grabbing victories in the baker round (total pin count of 1106-1080) and the best-of-7 round (4-1) to stay alive in the conference

ing bowlers."

Players like Cadez feel that, while their performance at the tournament wasn't what they'd hoped for, that shouldn't be a defining moment.

"A few costly splits in the wrong

places slowly started to dwindle our chances of moving onto the next round," Cadez said.

Cadez also said that she hoped that, based on performance throughout the season, the Dukes did enough to earn an at-large spot in the NCAA Tournament.

After failing to receive the NEC's automatic qualifier spot in the 2022 NCAA Division III Bowling Championship, the Dukes' fate rested on the possibility of earning an at-large spot.

Prior to the tournament field being announced on Wednesday, Fetterhoff was slightly pessimistic about her team's chances of getting to extend the season in the tournament.

"While I unfortunately think we might be the first team out since Sacred Heart got the automatic bid and FDU [Fairleigh Dickinson] and Mount are ahead of us in the RPI, I'm hoping the committee takes into consideration our whole resume and not just the RPI," Fetterhoff said.

On Wednesday, Fetterhoff's pessimism became reality. Sacred Heart, Fairleigh Dickinson and Mount St. Mary's made it into the 16-team field, while Duquesne did not.

Regardless, the team will still get to compete at the Intercollegiate Team Championships in Addison, Ill., with the event set to span from April 18-23.

At 63-34, Fetterhoff instilled a blueprint for success this season, predicated on cohesiveness.

"I think it's just our belief in ourselves and each other," Fetterhoff said. "We have a very close-knit team, and they all support one another."

"... They understand what we are trying to accomplish and that we can only achieve that if we all work together and be great teammates, both on and off the lanes."

## WLAX falls to ranked Massachusetts

**BENJAMIN GOTTSCHALK**  
staff writer

Trailing by as many as 12 goals, the Duquesne women's lacrosse team tried to creep back in, but ultimately fell to Massachusetts by a 21-9 count at Rooney Field on a bitterly cold and windy Sunday afternoon.

After the Dukes and the Minutewomen exchanged goals and sat deadlocked at 2 early in the first quarter, UMass went on an 11-0 run before surrendering a goal to Duquesne with just 45 seconds left before halftime.

The Minutewomen took a 13-3 edge into the break.

UMass — a program ranked nationally by multiple polls — controlled the majority of the game.

Duquesne Head Coach Corinne Desrosiers understood that the matchup would be a difficult one.

"We knew their offense was hot, so we practiced a conservative approach that would keep them out of the zone," Desrosiers said. "And we knew they'd throw high pressure at us, so we talked offensively about

seeing the inside, as they'd leave a lot open, which they did."

The Minutewomen dominated the Dukes with a 25-8 edge in the draw-control category. That helped UMass stay on the offensive side of the field for much of the game.

As a result, UMass outshot Duquesne by a 40-12 mark (with a 32-10 advantage in shots on goal).

Mady Piersielak — Duquesne's starting goalkeeper — made eight saves, but allowed 16 goals in 45 minutes of action. She was replaced by Rachel O'Toole for the game's final quarter.

O'Toole allowed five goals while stopping three UMass shots.

The Minutewomen's high-powered offense, as of March 29, ranked fourth in all of women's NCAA DI competition with 16.7 goals/game.

"We were too worried about getting scored on to really promote caused turnovers and [to] get out and pressure them more. That hurt us a lot," Desrosiers said. "We had talked in our practice yesterday, we had one day of prep to get out and

jam up their hands."

"We just didn't do it enough because the defense was the only side of the field really playing and they started losing steam."

Four of Duquesne's nine goals came during the third quarter. Two of those tallies followed a green-card penalty that was called on the Minutewomen's Haley Connaughton.

"That green was the only one given, and there should have been five or six more," Desrosiers said. "It's for fouls in the midfield, and if there are three in a row, [then] there should be green cards to deter poor play. Only until I started in on the refs did they even notice it."

Desrosiers also said that her team's attack "didn't have any problems scoring in the game."

"They made one save against us and we put nine in," Desrosiers said. "We just didn't get the ball enough."

At 3-6 on the season, Desrosiers' squad wasn't deterred by the defeat.

"This was a very good, nationally ranked squad with a lot of fifth-year

players on it, over a dozen, against a team that starts five freshmen a game," Desrosiers said. "We went in knowing the battle, and it just makes our young team better for the future. It's always been part of the plan."

The Dukes will return to action on Friday afternoon, when they travel to Virginia to take on the Richmond Spiders.



PETER BOETTIGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Duquesne players celebrate following a goal during Friday afternoon's game against Saint Joseph's at Rooney Field.

### Jackie Johnson III leaving Duquesne

About three weeks removed from the end of a 2021-22 campaign in which the Duquesne's men's basketball program went 6-24, the team has another player that will not be returning to the program next season.

On Monday, Pittsburgh Sports Now's George Michalowski reported that Jackie Johnson III will enter the transfer portal after one year with the Dukes.

Johnson, a native of Wichita, Kan., committed to Duquesne after playing in high school at Hargrave Military Academy in Chatham, Va.

He helped lead Hargrave to a 31-1 mark in the 2020-21 season, a year in which he averaged over 27 points and six assists per game.

Oak Hill Academy — which produced big-time National Basketball Association names like Carmelo Anthony, Kevin Durant and Rajon Rondo — was no match for Johnson. In a scrimmage against Oak Hill early in the 2020-21 season, he dropped 54 points and added nine rebounds.

In his lone season at Duquesne, Johnson was one of five Dukes to appear in all 30 games, as he averaged 19.3 minutes per game.

The first-year guard started in 11 of the team's 30 contests, seeing his name in the starting five in eight consecutive contests between Dec. 11 and Jan. 29.

Johnson averaged 9.5 points per game, scoring in double figures on 13 occasions. In the season's final four games, he averaged 17.5 points per contest, including a career-high 30-point performance in a triple-overtime loss to George Washington on March 2.

He also scored 27 points on two separate occasions (Nov. 15 against Weber State, Jan. 8 against Massachusetts).

Johnson ranked fifth on the team in scoring, while leading the Dukes in made 3-point field goals with 41.

Johnson became the second Duquesne player to enter the portal following the season's end. He joined Toby Okani, who announced his intentions to transfer on March 14.

Last week, PSN also reported that the program contacted Mike Saunders Jr., a Cincinnati transfer who scored 7.3 points per game for the Bearcats in 2021-22.

Duquesne had also reached out to DeAndre Gholston, a Milwaukee transfer who averaged 14.3 points per game last year. Gholston ultimately committed to Missouri.

-Luke Henne, Sports Editor



# NFL offseason dominated by marquee moves

**BRENTARO YAMANE**  
layout editor

Change can allow people to move forward in life and experience new things.

This National Football League offseason, a lot of players have changed teams, either by trade or through free agency. With big-name moves happening left and right, fans will have to get used to seeing some of the game's top players in different jerseys.

For the first time since 2003, the Pittsburgh Steelers will have a full-time starting quarterback that isn't Ben Roethlisberger. The two-time Super Bowl champion announced his retirement at the conclusion of the 2021 season.

To fill that hole, the team signed Mitch Trubisky, who was the No. 2 overall pick in

son Rudolph and Dwyane Haskins to win the starting job in Pittsburgh.

This was just one of many moves in the offseason's quarterback carousel.

After guiding the Seattle Seahawks to eight playoff appearances in 10 seasons, two Super Bowl appearances and a Super Bowl title, Russell Wilson was dealt to the Denver Broncos. Denver — looking to return to the postseason for the first time since winning Super Bowl 50 in 2016 — now has a seasoned veteran to guide the ship.

Although he's entrenched in legal troubles following a handful of sexual assault allegations, the Cleveland Browns decided to acquire DeShaun Watson from the Houston Texans. In spite of his accompanying controversy, Cleveland is choosing to take a chance on Watson, who led Houston

the Atlanta Falcons. Ryan — the 2016 NFL MVP and Offensive Player of the Year — led Atlanta to an appearance in Super Bowl 51 that same season. Indianapolis — looking to win a Super Bowl for the first time since 2007 — picked up one of the league's more-experienced quarterbacks.

Despite all the moves at the quarterback position so far, arguably the biggest one came when one of the sport's most-prolific players decided to come out of retirement.

Following a decision to hang up the cleats that lasted less than two months, Tom Brady announced on March 13 that he'd be returning to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

With Brady returning to Tampa Bay and Aaron Rodgers staying with the Green Bay Packers, despite a flurry of speculation that he'd be playing elsewhere, two of the NFC's stalwarts should remain competitive for at least the immediate future.

While a lot of NFL fans might be shocked at all of the movement among the league's quarterbacks, a plethora of standout wide receivers have also found new homes.

Davante Adams, who's been selected to every NFL Pro Bowl since 2017, was traded from the Packers to the Las Vegas Raiders. Under the bright lights of Las Vegas, Adams will reunite with Derek Carr. Adams and Carr formed a dynamic quarterback/wide receiver duo during their collegiate careers at Fresno State University.

A Las Vegas team that went 10-7 a season ago without a star receiver now has one of the game's best pass-catchers. They'll look to heavily involve Adams to win games in an ultra-competitive AFC West division.

The Kansas City Chiefs — one of the Raiders' division rivals — moved on from five-time NFL Pro Bowl selection Tyreek Hill when they dealt him to the Miami Dolphins in exchange for five future draft picks. Hill joins a loaded receiving core that features DeVante Parker, Jaylen Waddle, Cedrick Wilson Jr. and Mike Gesicki.

If third-year quarterback Tua Tagovailoa can take the next step in his growing process and the Dolphins don't start 1-7 (like they did in 2021), they could be a legitimate contender in the AFC East.

Although it might seem like a big loss for Kansas City, it'll be an ultimate test of quarterback Patrick Mahomes' capabilities without an elite receiver. He will still have capable pass-catchers, however. The team recently signed JuJu Smith-Schuster (previously with the Steelers) and Marquez Valdes-Scantling (previously with the Packers) to complement dangerous weapons like Travis Kelce, Mecole Hardman and Byron Pringle.

Another star receiver on the move was Amari Cooper, who was traded from the Dallas Cowboys to the Browns. After four productive seasons with Dallas in which he caught 292 passes for 3,893 yards and 27 touchdowns, Cooper will look to become Watson's top target in Cleveland.

Other notable pass-catchers that had down years in 2021 but will look to bounce back in their new homes include: the Los Angeles Rams' Allen Robinson (previously with the Bears), the Detroit Lions' D.J. Chark (previously with the Jaguars), the

Tennessee Titans' Austin Hooper (previously with the Browns) and the Bills' O.J. Howard (previously with the Buccaneers).

A handful of notable names on the defensive side of the ball also switched teams. Veteran cornerback Casey Hayward left the Raiders to sign with the Falcons, while former New England Patriots standout J.C. Jackson agreed to a deal with the Los Angeles Chargers.

Marquee linebackers were also on the move. Von Miller — a two-time Super Bowl champion — left the Rams to join the Bills, while Myles Jack signed with the Steelers following an extended tenure with the Jaguars. The Chargers also acquired six-time Pro Bowler Khalil Mack from the Bears.

With the NFL's offseason having been underway for less than a month, there are many moves yet to be made between now and the start of the 2022 season in mid-September.

While some moves signal that teams are looking to enter rebuilding windows (like the Seahawks did when they traded Wilson, or the Falcons did when they dealt Ryan), a majority of the transactions suggest that the league will be a lot more competitive than it has in recent years.

Teams like the Dolphins and Raiders have struggled to find postseason success since the turn of the century, but they've each added a marquee receiver to help them take the next step forward in pursuit of a Super Bowl title.

Some teams, such as the Browns, have yet to take the next step despite years of hype surrounding them. But, Cleveland now has an elite quarterback and wide receiver connection that could help the franchise get over the hump.

From 2001 to 2015, there were nine different Super Bowl champions. Since 2016, the league has seen six different teams hoist the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

Teams like the Patriots, Steelers and Ravens no longer have a stranglehold on the league. The NFL's balance of power is becoming more evenly distributed, even prior to this current offseason.

Now, with such a flurry of moves taking place, more and more teams will have a legitimate shot at winning future Super Bowls.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Longtime Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson (right) is now a member of the Denver Broncos.

the 2017 NFL Draft.

Trubisky spent four years with the Chicago Bears, guiding the team to playoff appearances in 2018 and 2020. After Chicago moved on from him and drafted Justin Fields, Trubisky spent the 2021 season as Josh Allen's backup with the Buffalo Bills.

He used last year as a "learning season" to study and develop under the same coaching staff that turned Allen into an MVP candidate. Fans will see if Trubisky's learning season can help him beat out Ma-



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The Miami Dolphins made a splash when they acquired Tyreek Hill from the Kansas City Chiefs.

to AFC South titles in two of his four active seasons, but was kept off the field for the entire 2021 season.

The Browns haven't won a division title since capturing the AFC Central crown in 1989.

With Watson now set to lead the way in Cleveland, Baker Mayfield — the No. 1 overall pick in the 2018 NFL Draft — is all but guaranteed to be playing elsewhere in 2022.

Following one season with the Indianapolis Colts, Carson Wentz was sent packing again when he was dealt to the Washington Commanders. The No. 2 overall pick in the 2016 NFL Draft spent his first five NFL seasons with the Philadelphia Eagles before being shipped to the Colts prior to the 2021 season.

While being reunited with Indianapolis Head Coach Frank Reich (Wentz's offensive coordinator from 2016-17 in Philadelphia) in 2021, Wentz was good, but not great. He had a lackluster performance in a Week 18 game against the Jacksonville Jaguars that — coupled with a Steelers victory — eliminated Indianapolis from postseason contention.

Now, Wentz will head to Washington and return to the NFC East, where he'll face Philadelphia two times per season.

Wentz will also look to become the first quarterback to lead the Washington franchise to a postseason win since 2005.

In choosing to move on from Wentz, the Colts picked up Matt Ryan in a trade with



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

After eight seasons playing alongside Aaron Rodgers in Green Bay, Davante Adams will reunite with college teammate Derek Carr in Las Vegas.



## Murder Mystery Party sleuths solve crime in NiteSpot

NICHOLAS ZOTOS  
staff writer

Food, friends and mystery made for a thrilling combination of events Friday night when students from across campus gathered in the Union to participate in a murder mystery night.

The event was hosted by Phi Sigma Lambda, Duquesne's professional forensics fraternity. Students honed their forensic skills with a fake crime scene, clues and a fun-filled night.

"Phi Sigma Lambda set up a mock crime scene case with news articles, eye witness statements, interviews and interrogations," executive officer Olivia DePergola said.

The students gathered in groups in the NiteSpot, theorizing together on who the "murderer" was.

This was Phi Sigma Lambda's first larger on-campus social event since Covid-19. Due to the pandemic, many of the fraternity's events were canceled. However, everything was in full swing during last Friday's event, which boasted approximately two dozen students in attendance.

Students were engaged throughout the night, as food and refreshments were served and each group concocted their own theories about the mystery. Students read multiple eyewitness reports and fake newspapers. Mock clues were also provided for the participants to rummage through.

"It sounded like this event would be fun, and it did not disappoint. Since I am extremely interested in forensics, I wanted to come out and support the organization" said Wyatt Lager, a freshmen forensic science major. "Half of my family is in law and the other half of my family is in medicine. Forensic science is a mixture of the two and I would advocate the major for anyone looking for a balance."

Ultimately, the night was filled with eager underclassmen showing off their unique forensic skills. In the end, it was deduced that the victim's friend, Andy, lured her into a room and killed her. The character thought he could get away with it, but close examination of the evidence said otherwise.

When it comes to fake crime scenes and a thrilling mystery, it



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Whipping out the magnifying glasses, Duquesne students join Phi Sigma Lambda in a night of problem solving.

seems Duquesne students show no lack of interest.

"The executive committee is due to meet next week, and if all goes well we will most likely have another event like this in the fall" fraternity president Taylor Mclure said.

The fraternity is welcome to anyone majoring in forensic science, and they are always looking for new members. However, certain events on campus like murder mystery night are open to all students.

"We are glad at the numbers

we have and we are excited to get more people interested in true crime and forensic sciences in general. Mclure said. "Murder Mystery Night is usually a fun way to engage freshmen and to get forensic science majors interested in our fraternity."

For students wanting to participate in a classic scenario of "Who Done It," and missed their chance last week, be sure to keep a watchful eye out for the organization's next thrilling event.

## CAMPUS EVENTS

PFC: Make Your Own Letters  
March 31 @ 9 p.m.

Go to the NiteSpot to paint your own Greek letters! Snacks provided.

Daniel Franzese  
Meet & Greet  
March 31 @ 9 p.m.

Get your tickets on the third floor of the Union for a comedy/conversation with *Mean Girls* actor Daniel Franzese! The event will take place in the Union Ballroom, with a maximum capacity of 500 students.

DPC DUNite: Pot-A-Succulent  
April 1 @ 9 p.m.

Go to the NiteSpot for free succulents and decorating!

Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium  
Trip  
April 2 @ 11:30 a.m.

Contact the Pre-Vet and Animal Enthusiasts Club for free tickets to the Pittsburgh Zoo! Transportation will leave at 11:30 a.m. and return to campus at 4:30 p.m.

## Car Bazaar lines up in Forbes, Smithfield Garages near you

EMMA POLEN  
features editor

Car Bazaar, Pittsburgh's annual parking garage flea market, is starting up for the 2022 season on Saturday, April 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event will run every Saturday through September – weather permitting – with exceptions for holiday weekends and April 30, the Pittsburgh Marathon.

The market will be held inside the Forbes and Smithfield Garages on 400 Cherry Way.

"Almost 100 vendors are expected with live music, and the addition of a dedicated vinyl section, all spread throughout a multi-level open-air space," according to a news release from the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership.

"After a highly successful pilot in April 2021, the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership has found a new parking garage location to house its 'ultimate' Pittsburgh garage sale."

Car Bazaar is a Pittsburgh twist on the beloved British "Car Boot" sale tradition," the release said. "It predicts close to 100 makers, artists, retailers and people offering second-hand items, all selling goods from their car's "boot," or trunk, in Downtown Pittsburgh."

Live music entertainment will



COURTESY OF PITTSBURGH DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP

Pittsburgh's Car Bazaar is free to the public, and will offer a variety of activities for patrons from spring until summer.

be provided by a rotation of local performers. Saturday, April 2, will feature Freddie Stover, Pittsburgh's Lady of Blues, who performs by her stage name: Miss Freddie.

Stover will play with one accompanying musician and bring about 20 blues songs to Bazaar browsers. The song list will include uplifting and fun originals, Stover said in an emailed statement.

The Lady of Blues played the Car Bazaar in its premiere year of 2021. "We loved it. We are glad to be back," she said.

In addition to providing the en-

tertainment, Stover is also looking forward to taking part in the Bazaar herself.

"It's about supporting the vendors! I love meeting people. It's a great event to socialize!" she said.

In addition to vendors, the Speckled Egg and the Pickled Chef will be out selling food at Car Bazaar. The Speckled Egg will bring fresh-made brunch foods and made-to-order craft cocktails. The Pickled Chef will bring along their signature grilled cheese sandwich for Bazaar-goers to try.

The Pickled Chef was started in

the spring of 2014 by Chef Greg Andrews and family, according to Pickled Chef's official website. Their gourmet grilled cheese was introduced in 2015, and has been a hit ever since, traveling with the business throughout marketplaces in the region.

The Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership shared that the market is free for visitors and open to the public, with a limited number of discounted parking spots available at both the Forbes and Smithfield Garage and Allies Garage for \$5.

## CAPRI'S KIND WORDS

Take your chances, every chance

It's not often that we have so many wonderful opportunities at our fingertips, all at the same time. How can you continuously take advantage of the chances you've been given, without burning out or putting your wants and needs on the backburner?

Truthfully, we will always have chances to relax. To save money. To read for class. To eat healthy. But you cannot repeat memories in the making, and not every chance you are given will replicate itself in the future. It's great to stay organized and be prepared, but sometimes you have to live right here, right now, where these moments will turn into stories you tell loved ones and pictures that will sit in scrapbooks.

A lot of the time, your biggest obstacle is you. Don't keep yourself from your happiness for the convenience of your schedule, or worse, for the convenience of others.

You have so much light ahead of you, and you deserve to soak it all in.

— Capri Scarcelli



## The making of an artist: inside Colleen Hammond's one-woman show

ZOE STRATOS &  
CAPRI SCARCELLI

opinions and a&e editors

On the Genesius Theater stage, a flood of bright blue, flashing red and TV static pulses as a singular woman stands center stage in baby blue shoes. It's quiet, until a rumbling sound crescendos through the crowd in a nightmarish duple meter. Surrounded by hexagon towers, she cowers, screaming that it sounds like "1000 airplanes are on the roof."

Swapping her reporter's notebook for riveting monologues is none other than Duke Editor-in-Chief Colleen Hammond, who will be starring as "M" in the one woman show *1000 Airplanes on the Roof*.

Unlike many of the Red Masquers productions this year, David Henry Hwang's one-act melodrama takes on a more dystopian, surrealistic nature. The performance, opening on March 31, follows M, who supposedly encounters extraterrestrial life, and must navigate her way through the unbelievable experience.

Wanting to create his own rendition of Hwang's bare-bones script

duction of *The Elephant Man*, which is a fabulous play, or, he told me, I could star in a one-woman show. I said, "Why can't I do both?" and he laughed at me and told me no. I said "No, but really, can I do both?"

After much deliberation, she decided on *1000 Airplanes on the Roof* because of the challenge it presented.

"I wanted that because this is bigger than anything I've ever been a part of before," she said. "I've had leading roles before, but nothing really compares to a one-woman show. It's just this glorious behemoth that you just have to figure out how to saddle and how to bring to life every night."

Hammond has been working toward her role as M all her life. As a child in Ann Arbor, Mich., her mother took her to a community children's theater to see a play, and after it was over, she said "I think you could do something like that."

Soon enough, Hammond starred at 9 years old as the Pied Piper in *Pied Piper* — she admitted it was because she was the only kid in the theater company who knew how to play the flute.

But the role only continued to



ANDREW CUMMINGS | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Surrounded by a swarm of otherworldly figures, M grapples with a reality that feels significantly alien, even to her.

for her to do this, and I wanted to make sure she was going to be all on board," Lane said. "We needed to give her enough time to memorize this really big project so that she's to the point where it's just kind of second nature coming out of her. Plus, there's so many moving parts: It's got to be timed with the music, the lights, and the sounds — there's so many distractions."

After months of arranging (and rearranging) the score, creating original stage directions, lighting and set, and casting the alien ensemble, *1000 Airplanes on the Roof* was almost ready for an audience. Each sentence uttered from Hammond was a piece in a mosaic, and had to be precisely executed with each background element in order to stick the landing.

The show tackles the Earth-shattering reality of something we all face, but choose to ignore: finding a sense of belonging. M finds herself shunning society, and welcoming, even accepting, the unconventional intrusive thoughts that seem to whirl through her head at the speed of sound. As M becomes more frantic throughout the show, a voiceover plays over her dialogue, mimicking her conscious insecurities as the aliens creep in. Projected in the cyc with symbolic imagery, we can see into M's spiral and are left to watch in bewilderment and awe.

Each movement felt purposeful, raw and full of genuine emotion — an impressive display from Hammond's impeccable interpretation of the role as well as the constant, uncanny presence of the movement actors.

During the rehearsal process, Hammond's biggest obstacle became herself.

"Believing in myself was probably the hardest part. It's a very peculiar sensation, when everyone around you is so confident that you can do something so seemingly impossible," she said. "And it's terrifying. The memorization hasn't been as difficult as anyone would think. It has been finding the character process,

and having the certainty that I can do it every single night."

Michael Kirk, a member of the alien ensemble and a "dear" friend of Hammond's, has believed in her since day one, as many have.

Kirk and Hammond met each other their freshman year during the Red Masquers production of *A Little Night Music*, where they played the roles of Carl and Charlotte Malcolm, the husband and wife. Since then, they have worked together on and off the stage.

"Colleen is the most opinionated person I've ever met, and I think we're all grateful for it, because she brings such an intelligent and courageous force to the stage that it's impossible to not follow in what she says," Kirk said. "Seeing her [grow] into herself during this show and really gain the confidence necessary to do a one-woman show has just been inspiring to me."

Hammond's acting coach and main inspiration, Nancy Bach, also believed in her abilities, and felt surprised when she doubted herself. According to Bach, "she's a natural."

"A script, when you take it apart, it's these little lines on a page. There's nothing there: how a person carries themselves; how they look when they say something; what's the tone," Bach said. "In a play, it's about hidden things. Even in this absurd surrealist world, this character is still fighting with her own insecurities. And Colleen just gets it."

Others involved, including alien ensemble members Anita Parrott, Matt Dudley, Ryan Graves and Susan Betten; and stage and production crew members Justin Sines, Peter Brucker, Nora Nee, Molly Cate Olson and Rachel Lewandowski have all contributed to the collaborative process, and believed in Hammond's ability to nail the role.

M's character is full of intricacies, finding solace in her senses but jolted by reality in seconds' notice, leaving behind an intensity that felt like whiplash. Hammond's ability to dominate the stage and make each moment

impactful was a true testament to her self-actualization as an actress and as a person.

"There's something really beautifully universal about this character, and about her experiences. You and I may not have been abducted by aliens, but I feel like every person knows what it's like to love someone and lose someone; what it's like to not feel at home anywhere you go; what it feels like to be lost," Hammond said.

The crew's riveting projections and Hammond's chilling monologue, *1000 Airplanes on the Roof* is a must-see sensory overload.

Audiences should come curious and leave more curious than before. Tackling these darker thematic elements, it is up to the viewer whether the show is commentary on society, mental health, the extraterrestrial or all of the above.

After this Sci-Fi story comes to an end, Hammond will begin the next story: graduating from Duquesne. Lane, Bach and Kirk all believe she's prepared for it.

"If anything, first and foremost, Colleen is a storyteller," Kirk said. "That's why she loves theater so much, it's because of her ability to convey a good story. I'm sure in some way, shape or form, that's what she'll end up doing, and I think that's just awesome."

With her theater experience in the back of her mind, she, too, agrees that she's ready for that next step.

"The future's still uncertain, but no matter what career path I end up taking or what job offers I end up accepting, I'm quite confident that I will always be a storyteller," Hammond said. "It means that your little set of ears know how to listen. It's about being brave enough to feel human experience in its entirety, to not shy away from the pain or discomfort that often arises in everyday life. It's about acknowledging your own humanity and respecting the dignity of others: That's what makes an artist an artist."



COURTESY OF MOLLY CATE OLSON

*1000 Airplanes on the Roof* runs March 31 - April 3 and April 7-9 @ 8 p.m. Tickets are available on the Red Masquers' website, and are free to Duquesne students.

and Phillip Glass's minimalistic score for nearly two decades, John Lane, the Director of Theater Arts at Duquesne, knew the part would fit Hammond perfectly.

"Colleen approached me with directing a play, but I had already wanted to do [*1000 Airplanes on the Roof*]," Lane said. "I thought she would be perfect for it. This wasn't really picked with her in mind, but it just presented itself as a really great project for her. Thank God she chose it, because she's fabulous."

Hammond, a self-proclaimed "over-achiever," had another idea.

"He told me I could direct the pro-

pique Hammond's interest, and soon after, she was going to summer camps and taking classes to hone her skills. Two summers during her teenage years, she auditioned for and attended the Interlochen Center for the Arts. Even when she wasn't performing, she was always learning and going to see shows.

Now starring in her biggest role, Hammond and Lane got right to work — all the way back in September. Preparing for the production, the two said the show started in an unorthodox way: rehearsals began before auditions.

"It's been quite a commitment



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“Reacting in anger or  
annoyance will not  
advance one’s ability  
to persuade.”

RUTH BADER GINSBURG

You just read | Now tweet  
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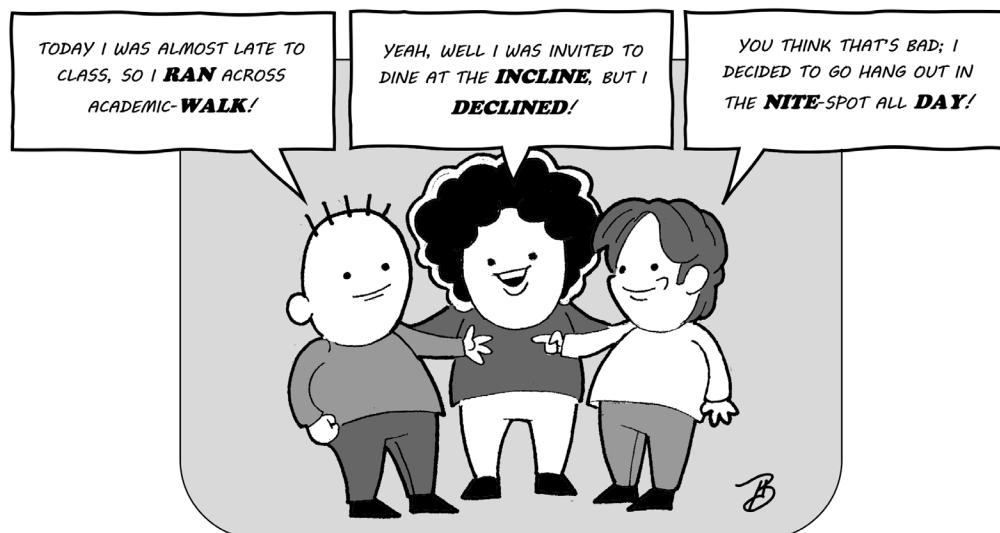
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BENJAMIN CRAWFORD | STAFF COMIC ARTIST

## Dissecting the Academy Awards slap; Pinkett Smith deserved better

Immediately after Sunday’s Academy Awards, one moment took the spotlight from the winners of the night fueling a multi-faceted controversial debate: the Will Smith slap heard around the world.

The moment started as Chris Rock taking the stage to present the award for best documentary, but he took a detour — as many comedians do — to make a joke. Rock latched onto Jada Pinkett Smith, joking that he was looking forward to seeing her in “G. I. Jane 2,” — a reference to a hypothetical sequel to the 1997 movie in which Demi Moore shaved her head.

The reason for the immediate outrage is Pinkett Smith’s diagnosis of alopecia. She has been transparent about her diagnosis on Red Table Talk in 2018, yet was unamused at the gag. It’s no surprise the comedian made the low-blow joke, many over the past few years have been “canceled” for their insensitivity — it’s a fine line they have to tread in the profession.

However, there are many takeaways from the moment: Rock shouldn’t have made the joke, Smith shouldn’t have slapped him and Pinkett Smith deserved better behavior from both men.

This isn’t the first time Rock has made a joke at the Oscars at the Smiths’ expense, commenting on their boycott from the event in 2016, and voicing that they weren’t even invited in the first place.

But the real insensitivity came at this year’s Academy Awards, when he personally violated Pinkett Smith over her hair loss on live TV. Black hairstyles, throughout the course of history, have been the butt of public jokes and negative public discourse. They’ve often been painted as “unprofessional” in the workplace or “inappropriate” in schools.

With that said, hair is a main contributor to Black cultural identity. Being that Pinkett Smith has alopecia, she immediately lost access to that form of self expression. Why would Rock, a Black man himself, make a joke about a Black woman’s hair?

The joke becomes even harder to understand knowing that Rock was involved with a 2009 documentary called Good Hair, which discussed the ways in which Black hairstyles are stigmatized in western society.

He explained the reasoning for why he wanted to make the documentary was when his



ZOE STRATOS  
opinions editor

daughter asked him: “Daddy, how come I don’t have good hair?” The vulnerable moment with his daughter sparked the idea, and he spent time visiting hair salons and stylist competitions, and speaking to multiple Black women and experts during the production of the documentary.

The joke was a regression for Rock’s support, Pinkett Smith’s progress in normalizing alopecia and the entire Black community’s attempts to bring positive attention to their culture.

Unfortunately, Will Smith’s reaction to the situation wasn’t warranted either.

What seemed on the surface like an attempt to defend his wife and the culture, turned into a poor display of toxic masculinity — and minor violence, of course.

Now, there’s no denying that people should stand up for Black women, especially those with a disease, but the display of “manhood” in the form of violence on a woman’s behalf is retrogressive, and may not have been what Pinkett Smith wanted or needed at that moment.

Smith’s act only brought greater attention to the unmemorable joke, which probably would’ve gone by the wayside after a comment or two from Pinkett Smith to the press. Unfortunately, if Pinkett Smith acted out like her husband, she most likely would have been plagued with the “angry Black woman” trope.

To make matters even worse, the Academy Awards cameramen caught Smith laughing at the joke, until he saw the look on Pinkett Smith’s face.

On top of that, Smith revealed in his memoir that he witnessed domestic violence as a child, including when he witnessed his father punch his mother. The display was both shocking, and seemingly uncharacteristic of Smith. Like Rock, his sour taste for [domestic] violence in prior conversations has all been reversed in this moment.

The situation also made for an uncomfortable acceptance speech for Questlove, the winner of the award, and another Black man.

Although the moment itself was preventable, and in all honesty shouldn’t have happened, it also opened up conversations once again in so many ways. Whether it be insensitivity, Black culture or violence, there’s a lot of progress to be made in our society.

STAFF  
EDITORIAL

### Athletes, too, have a story worth telling

When thinking of your favorite athlete, unrealistic labels are probably often placed on that person: hero, inspiration and idol are some of the designations that come to mind.

But, after all, athletes are humans. They deal with the same types of problems as everyday people. And we should remember that when glorifying them in the ways that we do.

On Tuesday, former Major League Baseball outfielder Andrew Toles signed a contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers. Toles — who has not played in any capacity since 2018 — was diagnosed with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder that same year. In June 2020, Bob Nightengale of *USA Today* reported that Toles had spent time in at least 20 mental health facilities since 2019.

Toles’ new contract will provide him with the ability to keep access to both his mental health services and his health insurance, according to *USA Today’s* Analis Bailey.

In a world where sports are so high-stakes and so consequential, irrational expectations begin to form. We begin to depend on these athletes, joyful when they bring our teams glory or angered when they make a pivotal mistake.

During Toles’ minor-league career in the Tampa Bay Rays organization, he reportedly struggled to sleep as a result of persistent anxiety. He was often criticized by manager Jared Sandberg following late arrivals at the ballpark and after making a bevy of mental mistakes on the field.

This eventually led to Toles asking for a release and his admission into a mental health treatment center in 2015. According to *The New York Times*, Toles spent a brief period of time working in the frozen-foods section of a grocery store in his home state of Georgia before getting his chance to make it to the MLB with the Dodgers in 2016.

It’s okay to love sports and love the athletes that embody the sport, but there’s a line to be drawn. At what point do we temper our expectations? At what point do we start treating our favorite players with a more empathetic approach?

According to an article from Nightengale in June 2021, Morgan Toles (Andrew’s sister) said, “He’s not really living, but just floating. It’s almost zombie-like. I don’t know if he’ll ever get better. None of us do. But, at least, we’re not worrying whether he’s alive.”

While Toles’ story is an unfortunate one, it can also be cautionary. It’s time for more of a focus to be placed on the mental health and wellbeing of our greatest athletes.

Good on the Dodgers for resigning Toles and giving him his best access to health services and treatment that will, hopefully, help him stabilize a life that’s been riddled by adversity.

Keep Toles’ story in mind the next time you want to get angry that your favorite player struck out with the bases loaded or dropped the game-winning touchdown pass.

Just like you, they’re a human being with a story that might not get the attention it deserves, despite its significant ramifications.



## Supreme ridiculousness: The call for democratic reform

ZACHARY PETROFF  
staff columnist

Much like the Academy Awards, the United States Senate was looking to spice up its viewership and relevancy by enacting odd and disturbing behavior during the confirmation hearings for Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson. The political spectacle was once again a ridiculous display of partisan hackery filled with political opposition only concerned with producing a sound bite to use on their upcoming political campaigns.

Americans were exposed to yet another confirmation hearing where grown white men were throwing tear-filled temper tantrums whining about the fragility of white male privilege. The world was able to watch in disbelief as U.S. senators reminded the world that blatant racism is not a thing of the past, but remains in the forefront of various lawmakers' minds.

Americans were also once again subjected to the continuing trend of politicians pushing their political parties' allegiances over their duty as representatives.

How are we to expect anything different from one of America's least democratic institutions?

While our judiciary system, even



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Supreme Court confirmation hearings did not begin until 1916, when Woodrow Wilson selected Louis Brandeis, a Jewish man, for the Supreme Court.

with its flaws, is one of the most "just" in the world – the highest court wields the most power and requires the least amount of democratic participation of any of the branches of the government.

Supreme Court justices are not elected. They are appointed by the president. Once on the bench, justices enjoy a lifetime tenure. They do not have to face re-election or term limits. They are there until, in some cases, the day they die.

The Constitution does not provide any qualifications for a Supreme Court justice. There is not an age, education, profession or citizenship qualification. This is worth

noting since, during the Trump administration, there was a very real possibility that we were going to have a former Fox News analyst presiding over the highest court in the land – and he would have been well within his right to do so.

The rules for the path to the Supreme Court are, for lack of a better term, loose. Supreme Court confirmation hearings did not even begin until 1916 – this came about when Woodrow Wilson picked Louis Brandeis, a Jewish man, for the Supreme Court. The idea of a Jewish person sitting on the bench was so controversial that the Senate decided it now needed a process to

better vet their nominees – which is a historical way to say – keep the bench white, male and Protestant.

The nomination process, since its inception, is hallowed. As qualified as Jackson is – and she is very qualified – it did not matter. Her fate was sealed when the Senate went blue back in 2020. Just as it was with Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett during the previous president's administration. Qualifications do not matter – the only thing that matters is the composition of the senate.

The confirmation process was not created to ensure the rights guaranteed by the Constitution, but rather created with the intention of exclusion. It is easy to look at recent history and point to the Republican Party's antics at the flaw of not only the nomination process but the Supreme Court as an imbalanced body of government. However, the lack of democratic ideology has festered since the inception of the high court. Non-elected lifetime appointments with zero requirements closer align to tyranny and oligarchy than it does with the democratic republic that our country was founded on.

As the demographics, along with the needs of this country, continue to shift, it is becoming clear that the Supreme Court needs reform. The true issues that

face this country are more complicated than the run-of-the mill issues that are forced fed down our throats every election cycle.

A non-democratic institution combined with partisan pageantry is leading to the erosion of individual rights of the majority of the American people. It is no longer a matter of "if" but a matter of "when" *Roe vs Wade* is going to be overturned. Citizen United has allowed corporations to have an unchecked amount of influence in elections leading to the drowning of the voices for average Americans. The court also ruled in favor of the Patriot Act.

The court is going to be composed of six conservative justices to three liberal justices – a composition not reflective of the makeup of this country's political leaning. Excluding Jackson, the average age on the supreme court is 79 years old. As the country faces unprecedented issues that will include technology, our laws could very much be reflective of senior citizens and the hope that they can grasp the type of concepts needed to put the American people first.

This country has one of the most intricate legal processes in the world. While there are flaws, the wheels of justice move slowly but mostly fairly as a democratic process. The highest court in the land should reflect that.

## Monopoly isn't just a game: Uber's hold spreads to taxis

MIA LUBRANI  
staff columnist

Uber, the popular ride service available on mobile phones, is doing the unthinkable: They have officially started partnering with taxi companies in cities across the United States.

Uber and taxi services have been in competition on an unfair playing field since the rideshare app's inception. With more people owning telephones, they have come accustomed to ordering a ride through one of the popular apps.

Currently, Uber has an annual revenue of over \$11 billion, according to The Street. They are also a corporation on the New York Stock Exchange with a market capitalization of \$75.5 billion.

Although not quite there yet, Uber is also becoming a monopoly. While monopolies have some advantages, the disadvantages usually outweigh the good. Consumer surplus decreases, incentive to cut prices increases and an overpowered controller usually misuses the unitary system.

Uber still has competitors, but consumers should be cautious of them monopolizing independent transportation.

Uber launched in 2009 in San Francisco, and first arrived in New York in 2011, according to The Street. When Uber began their popularity campaign in New York, they attempted to alienate their

taxi counterparts. The taxicab industry also hated the online service because they drove away their normal customers.

On another note, Uber has faced its fair share of controversies in its timeline. The Street records that Uber has had driver lawsuits, sexual harassment charges and "cease and desist" letters. In 2010, San Francisco stalled their service because of improper licensing. In 2013, 35,000 drivers filed a lawsuit claiming their independent contractor status was unfair. Also, the company was hit with assault charges and claims of a sexist environment in 2017.

The most recent battle that Uber faced? Covid-19.

Unemployment and safety concerns have dominated the news and the ride service platform as well. Uber and other ride services, like taxicabs, needed to come back from their pandemic losses. As the pandemic fueled stay at home mandates, Uber was hit with a loss of business.

The U.S. economy is on the rebound from their pandemic losses, but it seems Uber drivers have not come back in the same amount. *The New York Times* points out that while people are ready to use Uber, drivers are still cautious and not ready to return to their public transportation jobs. Uber does note that their lack of drivers has been easing in recent months.

In an effort to continue their comeback from a global pandemic,

Uber is now partnering with taxicab services in the U.S. and other countries to offer uberTAXI as an option. Two taxi companies in New York City, Curb and CMT, are teaming up with Uber to offer their taxis on the app, according to *The New York Times*. Also, San Francisco companies are close to finalizing their deal with Uber.

Riders will now be able to choose from Uber cars or taxicabs when picking a ride and preferred fare. A taxi and an Uber are very similar experiences, so opening up the competition will even the playing field for the taxicab industry. Riders will pay roughly the same fee as for other options, and surge pricing will be introduced into the taxicab industry. The surge pricing will allow taxicabs to finally benefit from consumer surplus during popular ride times, says *The New York Times*.

Also, Andrew Macdonald, Uber's senior vice president, said the company wanted every taxi in the world on its platform by 2025.

This raises concerns about Uber forming a global monopoly of ride services. Monopolies have good qualities and bad qualities that hurt different groups of people.

Economics of Scale argues that with a greater scale of production, the average cost will be lower. Monopolies can encourage people to invest in their business. Governments can even regulate monopolies to benefit from their large scale and regulate fair prices.



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

Andrew Macdonald, Uber's senior vice president, said the company wanted every taxi in the world on its platform by 2025.

On the other hand, monopolies are total control of a service. Economics Help warns that monopolies lead to higher prices for consumers, being the only option to buy from. When a company monopolizes an industry, their incentive to cut costs or innovate their service decreases greatly. They have the ability to lower wages and reduce consumer surplus simply because they have the power to.

Monopolies are usually negative, especially in America. When businesses get too big and powerful, they end up treating their workers and consumers poorly in wages and prices. Capitalism promotes a small group of people controlling the majority of profit.

Right now, Uber does not have total control. Uber is a commodity or specialty product. They are not a monopoly yet. Lyft is still a popular option. Transportation also has many options like walking, biking, scootering, taking the bus, subways and multitudes of others.

An Uber monopoly is something to be cautious of. Uber partnering with taxicabs and high aspirations of global taxi control are steps in the direction of controlling the transportation industry.

It is great to see businesses attempting to modernize and bounce back from a lengthy pandemic, but consumers should be cautious of companies having too much power.



# The "Power" behind Treasure House Fashion

## *A fashion resale shop serves women in crisis*

EMMA POLEN

features editor

*The name of the victim in this story has been changed for privacy reasons.*

Lisa is a victim of domestic abuse. For years, she has been cyber-stalked by her ex, and it seems like nobody can help her. At 55, she is struggling to provide for her grandchildren when she's not even certain for her own future.

"I'm trying to make sure [my granddaughter] happy and secure. I have to put on my fake but she hears me cry," Lisa said.

She's jumped from one state to another in hopes of escaping the violence and manipulation of her abuser. And in two weeks, she's being kicked out of her temporary home.

"I can't do anything private. I can't go anywhere private. I can't talk."

Lisa did everything she was supposed to – told the police, called crisis centers and even confronted the stalker directly – and still nobody helped. Due to the nature of her abuse, women's shelters and law enforcement had very little to help.

Lisa had heard about the unique goals of Treasure House Fashion, a women's resale shop on McKnight Road, toward helping women enduring domestic abuse. On a whim she decided to come in to donate some clothes. "I was desperate," she said.

After a brief conversation with an employee working the shop, Lisa was introduced to Sally Power, Treasure House Fashion's founder and executive director, who is often at the storefront.

Instantly, Lisa felt a difference between the community in Treasure House Fashion and everywhere else she had turned for help.

"I felt like I was just going in circles, you know? And to be able to walk in here and just feel separate from it, to have somebody there... just because it's been really hard. I don't have anybody," Lisa said.

When the whole world seemed to be against her and her family, it was Sally Power at Treasure House Fashion who became Lisa's "angel" of saving grace. She offered clothing, comforted her and supplied her with insider informa-

tion about a women's crisis organization in Pittsburgh.

### The Power of a Consistent Message

Treasure House Fashion (THF) empowers women to look their best and feel their best, even while facing incredibly difficult life situations. The mission of Treasure House is "promoting the dignity and self-esteem of women, particularly women in transition or crisis."

Lisa is one of more than 40,000 women THF has served and supported since its opening in 2001.

The business was originally a for-sale women's resale shop to help Sally Power, the founder and current executive director, with expenses following the passing of her husband. One day, though, that all changed.

"And all women have a story. Every one of us has a story," Power said. "So when you hear a story, and it's just that 'heart dart' at you, you want to do something."

"Women are nurturers by nature," Power said. Her business was intended to be a place

women in need of financial assistance, but fewer customers. In addition, the customers who were coming in-person were elderly women, the most vulnerable population.

"They felt so lonely," Power said. "They felt [THF] was a safe haven and they would just hang out and talk. A couple of them said to me, 'Would you hug me?' because they felt so alone." And of course, she helped.

### The Power of Positivity

THF employees are not just known for their free hugs.

Throughout the year, the THF staff dress up in silly costumes and give every customer "unsolicited affirmation," Power said.

"We try to maintain and cultivate a culture of fun and playfulness and laughter and an embracing attitude. Because life is hard. And laughter is the best medicine," Power said.

While maintaining an upbeat atmosphere, THF has donated over half a million dollars for women in transition and crisis, according to Power. With the pandemic, THF has still managed to donate \$450,000 of clothing in the past 12 months.



EMMA POLEN | FEATURES EDITOR

THF carries everyday tops, bottoms and accessories, as well as wedding gowns and prom dresses. Specialty gowns are displayed in Treasure House Fashion's mezzanine and are available to peruse upon request.

In addition, she has plans for an elevator in THF to make the second floor accessible to disabled and older individuals who pass through the shop.

Due to its difficult location on the side of McKnight Road, Power would also like to fund a mural for the side of the business. Two women from a local art business have promised to design it for her, but Power still needs to find the financial means to make her dream possible.

"It's kind of crazy but it is what I want," she said.

Visit THF in-store at 7607 McKnight Road during their regular hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Their inventory is also available for purchase online on Ebay and Poshmark (@treasurehouse4u). More information about how to donate money, time or clothing can be found on their website.

By purchasing clothing that ultimately makes the wearer feel good about themselves at a low cost, Treasure House Fashion affirms the treasure within all women.



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Sally Power, executive director and founder, is the "power" behind Treasure House Fashion. "I love linking arms with other women to be able to better serve the women in our community that are going through challenging journeys. Come do some fashion treasure hunting at our house!" Power said.

for the "givers" to invest in themselves – a place for the women who are "the heart of the home; the heart of the community."

In the same spirit of giving, many customers will share the love through giving THF gift cards.

"[Shoppers] will not only buy something for themselves but they'll pay it forward," Power said. "They'll underwrite a gift certificate that they leave for another woman who may come in unexpectedly, who's just going through some challenging times."

Lisa is one receiver of this act of kindness. She had the chance to shop at THF with a gift card provided by another customer. At first, she was hesitant to accept the gift.

"I have a hard time taking and receiving and it made me feel uncomfortable," Lisa said.

But Power made a convincing argument. To her reluctant receivers, Power says, "You know how good it feels to give to someone else. How could you dare deny this woman the pleasure of doing that? She already feels good that she left this [gift card] for you. And she didn't even know who you were."

Even for women not in crisis, THF provides a supportive community. With a plethora of donations received over the past few years, THF has offered a full-store 60% off sale since they reopened after the pandemic, with special 70% sales sprinkled in.

During the pandemic, Power saw a lot more

In addition, any clothing donations that THF receives from women that Power and her crew dub "too loved" go to Saint Vincent de Paul, a national organization that provides materials for the most vulnerable and marginalized individuals. For 20 years, the relationship has been "collaborative and mutually supportive," Power said.

THF is partnered with over 60 crisis centers in the Pittsburgh area to not only provide clothing and money donations, but also a bit of retail therapy.

"It makes you feel more confident and walk a little taller...When women leave, they feel good," Power said.

### The Power of Possibility

It has always been Power's goal to expand her business to better serve more members of the community.

When Power learned that military women are the least served population in America, she said "Not on my watch." She has hosted events in hopes of providing a supportive community for these marginalized populations.

Power's plans to expand the service abilities of the physical THF location.

By expanding the second floor balcony into a complete second floor, Powers hopes to make a career training center, bathrooms and a shower available for the customers who might need them.



EMMA POLEN | FEATURES EDITOR

Pricing on Treasure House Fashion's merchandise follows a very easy-to-follow system of standard pricing for each type of item. Browsers will find name brands and designers like LOFT, Giorgio Armani and Carmen Marc Valvo.

*Concerned that you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship?*

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**1.800.799.SAFE (7233)**

**City of Pittsburgh Domestic Violence Unit**

**412.323.7250**



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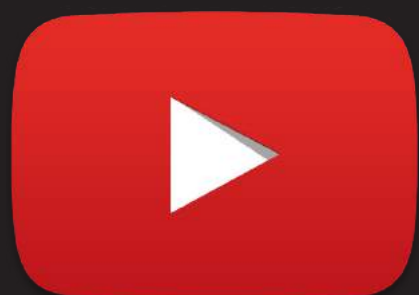
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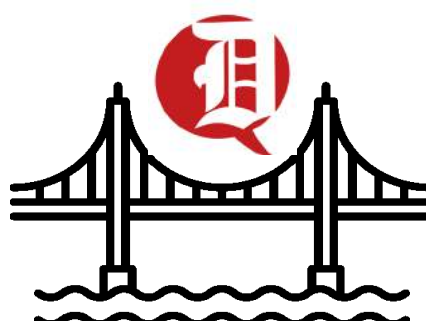


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