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THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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Student Government Association holds second meeting of semester



ZACH PETROFF | OPINIONS EDITOR

The officers of Student Government Association lead every bi-weekly meeting. From left to right: Ethan Delp, Vice President of Communications; Nathan Gierczynski, Vice President of Student Life; Jessica Schmitz, Student Body President; Gram Hepner, Vice President of Academic Affairs; and Claudio Simione, Vice President of Finance.

Duquesne

offers new

vaccine as

Covid-19

cases rise

ALICIA DYE news editor

On Tuesday, Duquesne announced via email that the university will have the bivalent Covid-19 booster vaccine available to all students and employees after completion of any FDA-approved or FDA-authorized primary series, according to the email.

The new bivalent vaccine is recommended for anyone above the age of 12. The bivalent booster must be given at least two months after any previous Covid vaccine.

What is the new bivalent vaccine? According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), it is an updated booster that contains two messenger RNA (mRNA) components of SARS-CoV-2 virus, one of the original strains of Covid and the other one common in two lineages of the omicron variant of Covid. The bivalent vaccine was approved for emergency use on Aug 31.

There are two different bivalent vaccines available, one by Pfizer and one by Moderna. The Pfizer one is approved for anyone age 12 and above, while the Moderna one is approved for anyone age 18 and above. Duquesne has both vaccines available to students and employees, so the choice is theirs.

The bivalent vaccines come at a time where Covid cases have been on the rise at Duquesne. According to the university's Covid dashboard, there have been 197 cases since Aug 15, with the peak of cases happening just a few weeks ago, when 25 students tested positive Aug 29. All case numbers are updated as of Monday.

Duquesne is handling Covid

see COVID — page 2

ZACH PETROFF opinions editor

The Student Government Association (SGA) has bold plans and now, with a blueprint of success, they are looking to capitalize on their momentum from last year's accomplishments namely giving students and faculty members some much-needed financial flexibility and options with transportation services.

While the number of students involved with SGA is clearly down from the pre-Covid 19 sessions, the 51st senate is undeterred in their mission of enhancing the experience of the student body any way they can.

The 48-minute meeting on Sept. 11 covered a range of topics covering a plethora of student organizations in an attempt to encompass the various walks of life that are at Duquesne University.

Whether it's sweeping changes for campus rules, modifying the food served in the dining facilities or simply changing the name of a club or organization, the student-held session functions as a representative body, a collective voice for students to help maintain and elevate all groups and people on campus.

On Sunday, the 51st senate held its fourth session (second of the semester) in the newly named Thomas R. Kline School of Law.

Students were greeted with a welcoming sound of popular music playing throughout the lecture hall as they looked for a place to sit and wait for the session to begin.

SGA President Jessica Schmitz stood in front of the room, greeting students as they made their way in.

Freshmen Liam O'Mahony and Benjamin Wu, first-time participants, were eager to join a club that is active and "felt like a four-year kind of thing."

"[SGA] is definitely important, and it is something that I would like to continue to be part of," O'Mahony said.

Wu nominated himself for the finance committee chair position.

The session opened with a prayer led by Schmitz. Then, the floor was given to spiritual and facility advisor, Linda Donovan, who gave a recap of the week's spiritual led events, such as the placing of flags on College Hall and a drum circle.

Donovan then gave a preview of activities and lectures that were taking place on campus in the upcoming week.

She ended her time on the floor with a prayer for peace.

The next to take the floor were

the executive board members. Ethan Delp, the Vice President of Communications, looked for members to volunteer to take the 9/11 tribute flags down and clarified various clerical information for SGA members.

Vice President of Academic Affairs Gram Hepner, discussed the formation of an ad hoc committee to determine the recipient of the SGA scholarship.

The SGA scholarship is available to all students who attend Duguesne and is determined based on need, scholarship, leadership and university involvement. Applicants must have their form and essay completed by the end of the day on Sept. 21.

The Vice President of Finance Claudio Simione went over a brief budget overview that would be voted

The SGA's budget is more than \$10,000 lower than last year, due to the contribution to the Southside shuttle and the transportation endeavors, for a total of \$22,040.

Vice President of Student Life Nathan Gierczynski, spoke about the changes made in Hogan regarding the allergy section and the return of a rotating pasta bar.

Gierczynski talked about the

new kiosk services around campus and the set up of an eventual SGAsponsored Q&A session where students can have a direct line of communication to voice their concerns and suggestions.

President Schmitz would finish off the executive committee board reports by commenting on the SGA's continued work on the outside shuttle, the various continuation of councils and committees (such as the diversity inclusion identity council), further events that will be taking place and the re-introduction of the residence life agenda to amend the sign-in policy to make it "a little bit more student-friendly.'

The residence life issue, including the sign-in policy, the condition of certain residence halls and the non-existent consideration for non-binary or trans students ir any of the residence halls, seems to be the flagship piece of agenda that SGA is looking to take on this academic year.

"We're just trying to find a way to keep that balance of not isolating those students, not isolating students from each other, but also trying to keep in line with the Catholic mission as the priest sees fit," Schmitz said.

see SGA - page 3

Vaccine clinics available for students

POLICE BRIEFS

Tuesday, Sept. 6-

A student had his money removed from his wallet that he left on the university's loop bus. This is an active case.

Tuesday, Sept. 6-

Police located Mykai Bullock, a non-affiliated male, sleeping on McCloskey Field.

After running Bullock's information through the county index, it was discovered that Bullock has an outstanding warrant out of Cumberland County, for a probation violation. The original charges were aggravated assault.

The warrant was confirmed and Bullock was transported to the Allegheny County Jail while he awaits extradition. Bullock was also issued a defiant trespass warning.

Wednesday, Sept. 7-

A victim sent nude image(s) to unknown person(s) on a social media site.

The victim was extorted into sending money to prevent the images from being shared with people on his contact list. This is an active case.

Friday, Sept. 9-

A student reported seeing another student desecrating a United States flag memorial set up behind College Hall. The memorial was in remembrance of the victims of Sept. 11, 2001.

The student performing the action was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Saturday, Sept. 10-

A student from Brottier Hall was transported by medics to the hospital due to the student's state of intoxication.

Sunday, Sept. 11-

Officers were dispatched to St. Ann Hall for a highly intoxicated female who was unresponsive, but breathing.

The student was transported by medics to the emergency room at UPMC Mercy. The student was also referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

EMAILTIPS

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 Luke Henne at hennel@duq.edu

see COVID — page 1

differently than in the past, with no mask mandates and no required Covid testing, a change compared to previous years.

The largest change is how Covid-positive students quarantine. In previous years, there have been Covid isolation floors available in certain residence halls, where students who tested positive would live and get food delivered to them. Last academic year, students who lived within 300 miles would have to isolate at home, while anyone who lived 300 miles or more away could isolate on campus.

This year, students who live on campus and test positive for Covid must go home to isolate themselves, unless they live more than 200 miles away from Duquesne.

However, resident students also have the option to isolate in their dorm, as long as they and their roommate sign the Isolation-In-Place Agreement. If students live more than 200 miles away and do not have an Isolation-In-Place Agreement, Residence Life will work with the student to arrange living conditions on campus.

If students choose to isolate

themselves on campus, they are allowed to get their own meals, with the only requirement being that they have to wear a mask.

Student Loren Davis is not happy about the changes.

"It puts a lot of other people at risk," Davis said. "People already act like Covid has gone away, and I think this adds to it."

Health Services is no longer conducting contact tracing for those who test positive either.

"Health Services will no longer conduct contract tracing. However, we stress that any person with a positive status notify any close contacts, particularly those who are immunocompromised or elderly," their website says.

For those who are immunocompromised, the situation is even scarier.

"I can wear my mask to be safe, but that only does so much," said student Abby Nimerosky. "I have a thyroid issue, and just knowing that people can leave their room while they have Covid to get things like Starbucks is frightening."

Commuter students must alert Health Services if they test positive for Covid, and Health Services will work with them on an isolation plan, according to an email from the university.

"As a reminder, students who test positive for Covid-19 must report their case to the university's Health Services by calling 412-396-1650 or emailing duhealth@duq.edu as part of Duquesne's Covid protocol," the email said.

Davis had Covid right as the semester started, and she had a hard time with classes.

"Although your professors are supposed to give you a Zoom link when you have Covid, not all of them do," Davis said. "I had trouble getting Zoom links, even after sending my positive test result to Health Services."

The university is currently offering free antigen testing for asymptomatic students who had a recent Covid exposure. The testing is also available for anyone who is concerned about Covid and would like to get tested. The testing clinic will be through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in room 109 of the Union.

There are walk-in Covid vaccine clinics available on campus, where students can get the new bivalent vaccine booster throughout the semester. Students and employees can also schedule an appointment for the new booster at 412-396-2155 or cpc@duq. edu (Center for Pharmacy Care).

Walk-in clinics will be held this Thursday, Oct. 20 and Nov. 7 in the Africa Room of the Union (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.), Oct. 6 in UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.), and every Tuesday and Thursday in room 109 of the Union (11 a.m. to 1 p.m.), beginning next week.



ALICIA DYE | NEWS EDITOR

Duquesne's Health Services office is located in the Union. Here, students can get tested for Covid-19.

Duqathon hosts Ignite Your Flame event

Brentaro Yamane

layout/multimedia editor

Duqathon started its fourthstraight year of festivities on Tuesday outside of the Laval House, when they kicked off the school year with their "Ignite Your Flame" event. They gave out free s'mores and made cards for kids at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

Last year, the program raised \$66,241.82. Every single year, the committee tries to exceed their total.

This year, there is a new executive director fourth-year speech language pathology student Molly Keller. She has been a part of the program since her freshman year when she worked as a miracle maker, and has worked her way up in the executive board.

Keller has had experience in raising money for awareness before entering college by helping run Mini-Thon at her high school. However, one of the biggest reasons she is so invested and dedicated to the program is because of an unfortunate event that had an impact on her life.

"The reason that I am so connected to this program was because this past Christmas, I lost a friend from high school, and she had brain cancer," Keller said. "So, she's supposed

to be my age. She's supposed to be graduating from college this year, and she's not. So that's just kind of my cause connection and why I stuck through this program my whole four years here."

Freshman Kacie Garofalo signed up for the program on Tuesday, and is looking forward to starting her Duquesne experience by joining a well-known organization that gives back to others in need.

"I saw a flier in the elevator, and it was talking about participating in volunteering for kids and for the Children's Hospital. So, I thought it'd be a good way to get involved in the community and just help kids out," Garofalo said. "My one friend from home actually has cancer, so we did a lot of volunteering and fundraising for her, gave money for treatment. It kind of hits close to home a little bit. So now it's just kind of like something that I want to do."

Every single day, social media and marketing tactics continue to expand, which helps to raise awareness. Morgan Emery is a junior and is the marketing coordinator for Duqathon. She has been working hard to make sure people help the children out. Emery also participated in Mini-Thon at her high school. She has helped make t-shirts, sweatshirts

and other types of merchandise to help raise money, as she is excited to see the program grow at Duquesne.

"Duqathon has absolutely grown," Emery said. "With the event that we had tonight, and having all of this turnout, even on our first meeting of the semester, we had probably about 75 freshmen there and we just keep hearing about it on campus from various grade levels.

"It's just a surreal feeling to know that this many people are interested in making a difference in a bunch of children's lives."

Emery and Keller are excited to see what the new school year holds for Duqathon, as they are thinking every day about new events to coordinate in order to achieve their goal of raising as much money as they can for the children.

"We want to continue to raise more money every year to go to UPMC Children's Hospital. That's the biggest goal that there really is," Emery said. "And we all know what it does for all the poor children who are in the hospital, day in and day out, suffering with chronic illnesses. It's just heartbreaking to think about. But knowing where this money is going and why we're dancing for a day,

pretty much is the best.

"When it comes to helping the children, it means a lot more than I can put into words," Keller said. "Being able to see their smiles at the main event, and just seeing them acting like kids and having fun, that's really what it's all about."



PETER BOETTGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER S'mores were a prominent part of Duquesne's "Ignite Your Flame" event on Tuesday at the Laval House.









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SGA seeks changes for Duquesne students ³

see SGA - page 1

After the conclusion of the executive committee boards reports, the senate's various committees would gave their reports, setting future meetings and plans. It was a meeting to set up more meetings. The SGA would also welcome three senators through

petitions. Braden Niles from the School of Liberal Arts, Ava Lee from the School of Nursing and Daniel Bardin from the Rangos School of Health Sciences were all unanimously voted in by the current members of the senate.

"I want to see SGA bridge the gaps between the Center of Excellence for Diversity and Inclusion and the people who are under that branch, including my own Asian Student Association, by coming together with SGA and [to] have a common understanding with each other," Lee said.

The next SGA meeting is set for Sept. 25 in room 203 of the Thomas R. Kline School of Law. Students can join SGA by simply attending the biweekly meetings and contact SGA



ZACH PETROFF | OPINIONS EDITOR

with any questions at sga@duq.edu. Students gathered in room 203 of the Kline School of Law on Sunday night.

Food Truck Fridays returns to Duquesne

SPENCER THOMAS sports editor

Engines revved and rubber rolled onto a sunny A-Walk on Friday afternoon, and Food Truck Fridays were back. Duquesne's most alliterative student engagement tradition made its long-awaited return to the Bluff, set to supply students with food that couldn't be found at traditional dining locations on campus.

From 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, five different food trucks set up shop outside of the Union, offering a variety of cuisines for students to enjoy. Tu Mangi, Pgh Crepes Truck and Lemonade,

Forlini's Kitchen, Brother Andre's Cafe, and Delicious Sinkers and Dunes Donuts and Coffee all made appearances.

Despite being on the schedule, the event was by no means set in stone. The trucks had actually been scheduled to make their semester debut on Sept. 2, but failed to show up. Perhaps that tease was simply to increase the anticipation. When the trucks did show up this time around, there were more than 100 students, either in line or scouting their options.

Among them was junior student Domenic Sileaggia.

"I like it, it gives options besides the food they already have on campus, and it's nice to have something different," Sileaggia said.

He was in line for Sinkers, his favorite truck, and was also hoping for some sushi options in the future.

Besides the food, Sileaggia was also appreciative of the social opportunities created by such a popular event being held in the heart of campus.

"You can talk to people while you're in line or friends outside while you're waiting," Sileaggia said.

While enjoyed by students, the event was also a great opportunity for local businesses, especially those with ties to the university. Brother Andre's is one of those. They were making their first appearance at the event, having their arrival coordinated by Scott Richards.

"Our goal is to help and to work with the IDD (Intellectual Developmental Disability) community," said director of cafe operations Ree Mitra. "We have three graduates from the St. Anthony's program here, too, who work with us, so Duquesne is very close to us.'

The cafe employs those who live with a variety of intellectual disabilities, from autism to cerebral palsy.

Mitra appreciated the event's ability to foster such a charitable business that aligned so closely with the school's mission, and also showed love to some of the food trucks with him.

"I love [the event]. [Sinker] donuts. Have you tried them? They're amazing," Mitra said, laughing. "All the other food, we're just waiting for a break to go get lunch. We're big supporters of Duquesne."

Sileaggia was thrilled with the event's quality, but hopes that the frequency of the trucks will increase.

"[I hope they] just make sure they do it more often," Sileaggia said. "They'll do it for a bunch of times, then they'll stop."

The event is scheduled to run until the end of October, and will return in the spring.



Spencer Thomas | Sports Editor

Students wait in line for various food trucks during Food Truck Fridays, which took place on A-Walk.



SPENCER THOMAS | SPORTS EDITOR

Tu Mangi — which features OG Wedgies and Specialita Wedgies — had a truck at Friday's event.

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SPORTS

Spirit of Football makes stop at Duquesne

SPENCER THOMAS sports editor

It was a jubilant scene at Rooney Field on Tuesday evening, as the Spirit Of Football and the Pittsburgh chapter of Borussia Dortmund's International Academy collaborated to host a soccer event in preparation for the upcoming World Cup.

Spirit Of Football is an international nonprofit company that operates "The Ball," a single soccer ball that travels the globe, will finish in Australia and New Zealand, at the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup.

This year, The Ball's mission is to combat climate change, a message it spreads through travels. The Ball's journey began in July with a game at Battersea Park in London, where it is believed the first-ever soccer game was played. In recognition of that history, Aris said that the game was played according to 1864 rules.

This edition of The Ball has since traveled around Germany, Turkey and England,



Spencer Thomas | Sports Editor

Young participants gather at Rooney Field during the Spirit of Football event on Tuesday night. "The Ball" was present, spreading a message of combatting climate change through its travels.

spreading positivity via the world's game.

"It is a perfect symbol of peace, love and respect," said Benne Grunewald, one of the keepers of The Ball. He and Andrew Aris, who played professionally in Germany, are carrying The Ball on its journey. The tour where it got to stop by the semifinal match of the UEFA Women's European Championship between Sweden and England. The ball now travels through the United States.

Spirit Of Football holds a close connection with Borussia Dortmund, which brought

The Ball to its academy in Pittsburgh.

After hosting a workshop for the Dortmund Academy coaches in the afternoon, the focus turned to that night's event, where the players in the academy played "fair-play football." The variation of the game encourages teamwork and fair play.

Teamwork is encouraged by the abolition of dribbling, forcing the ball to move through passes. Celebrations after scoring are exaggerated, and both teams — winning and losing — participate in the fun.

Teams were co-ed and shared by players aged 7 through 15. Players walked out to the UEFA Champions League Anthem during a done-up ceremony before kickoff, meant to replicate the environment of soccer's biggest stage.

Before the games, Grunewald told the players, "I wish you a great game, especially in terms of teamwork, fair play and respect."

After the games, players got the chance to sign The Ball, which has already accumulated over 2,000 signatures, including those from USWNT star Trinity Rodman, US Soccer Federation President Cindy Parlow Cone, and the entire Nigerian Women's National Team.

"Every signature has the same worth," Grunewald said, "because we are one. That's why we say [our motto], 'One ball, one world."

One signature that The Ball will soon be receiving is from the man who is responsible for much of its notoriety: Jurgen Klopp. One of the most-famous faces in world sport, Klopp is the manager for Liverpool FC, with whom he has won the English Premier League and the UEFA Champions League, cementing his place as one of the best soccer minds around the globe.

His partnership with Spirit of Football began during his tenure at Dortmund, and Aris said that he remains with the organization as their fair-play ambassador. He met with Aris, Grunewald and The Ball in Liverpool, and also starred in promotional videos for the organization.

This is the sixth journey for The Ball, and first destined for the women's competition. Aris says that the decision was made to forgo the men's tournament this winter in Qatar, whose hosting of the tournament does not align with Spirit of Football's mission.

The Guardian estimates that over 6,000 migrant workers died when building the infrastructure for the World Cup.

"It was a big mistake to give it to such an anti-democratic country," Grunewald said.

Qatar's hosting of the world's largest sporting event is one of many black marks which Grunewald believes money has brought into a game meant to be fun.

The ball traveled to Russia for the 2018 edition of the World Cup, a memory which Grunewald recalled with mixed emotions.

"We had a really good time actually, people from all over the world coming together celebrating the sport," Grunewald said. "Seeing the pictures now, it still feels awkward.

"Nowadays, soccer is so political, so much money in there, and the basics of football are getting lost. About teamwork, about having a good time playing sports and enjoying the love of this beautiful game. It's all about money and about revenue. It's a bit sad, actually."

That is why Aris says he founded Spirit of Football in Germany, as a way to showcase the beautiful nature upon which soccer was created. It's why the games they operate are built around fair play and fun.

"We are trying to show the positivity in fair play of football."

Grunewald says they plan on returning for the 2026 men's tournament in North America, at which point they will support both men's and women's events.

A-10 announces MBB conference schedule

<u>Luke Henne</u> editor-in-chief

After ending the 2021-22 campaign with 17-consecutive losses against Atlantic 10 Conference opponents, the Duquesne men's basketball program will get the chance to start with a clean slate this December.

Late last week, the A-10 released its conference schedule for the 2022-23 season. With a handful of newly hired coaches and talented rosters to compete with, Duquesne will look to take a step up after struggling to keep up a season ago.

The Dukes will open up conference action at Dayton on Dec. 28. The Flyers, who made it to the second round of last season's National Invitation Tournament (NIT), have won 12 of the last 14 meetings against Duquesne, dating back to the 2015-16 season.

However, the Dukes have not lost an A-10 opener since 2018-19, winning the first conference in each of the last three seasons (two of the three came on the road).

Duquesne will then return to UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse for back-to-back home games against Rhode Island (Dec. 31) and VCU (Jan. 4).

Rhode Island is now led by Head Coach Archie Miller, a native of Beaver Falls, Pa., who coached at Dayton from 2011-12 to 2016-17 and

Indiana from 2017-18 to 2020-21. The VCU contest will be a reunion game for Duquesne guard Tre Clark III, who spent the 2019-20 and 2020-21 campaigns with the Rams.

After the two-game homestand, Duquesne will hit the road for three games against Richmond (Jan. 7), Saint Joseph's (Jan. 11) and St. Bonaventure (Jan. 18). Richmond is a year removed from pulling off an upset over Iowa in the NCAA Tournament. St. Bonaventure — an NIT semifinalist in 2021-22 — has lost just two home games to Duquesne since the 2008-09 season.

Following two weeks away from home, the Dukes will welcome Fordham (Jan. 21) and Loyola of Chicago (Jan. 25) to town for another two-game homestand. Last season's win at Duquesne was the first for Fordham since 2018. Loyola of Chicago — which is set to begin its first season in the conference — has appeared in three of the last four NCAA Tournaments, and made a run all the way to the Final Four in 2017-18.

Duquesne will then make a two-game trip to Massachusetts (Jan. 28) and George Washington (Feb. 4). The Dukes' lone A-10 win in 2021-22 came at Massachusetts, but the Minutemen are now led by Frank Martin, who guided South Carolina to a Final Four in 2016-17. George Washington has won four of the last five head-to-head meetings with

Duquesne, including a triple-overtime contest in Washington on March 2.

The Dukes will return to Pittsburgh for three-straight home games against George Mason (Feb. 8), St. Bonaventure (Feb. 11) and Saint Joseph's (Feb. 15). Due to Covid-19-related cancellations and adjustments, the Dukes and Patriots have not met since Feb. 29, 2020. The Feb. 11 contest against the Bonnies will be televised nationally by USA Network.

Three of Duquesne's final five games will be away from the fieldhouse.

The Dukes will play at Saint Louis (Feb. 18) and at La Salle (Feb. 22), while also closing out the regular season at Fordham (March 4).

Saint Louis has been selected to either the NIT or the NCAA Tournament in each of the last three seasons, excluding the 2019-20 season, in which all postseason competition was canceled due to Covid

La Salle is a decade removed from a run to the Sweet Sixteen in 2012-13, but the Explorers are now guided by coaching icon Fran Dunphy.

The Explorers will become the third Philadelphia school that Dunphy has coached. He took Pennsylvania to nine NCAA Tournaments in 17 seasons from 1989-190 to 2005-06, while also leading Temple to eight NCAA Tournaments in 13 campaigns.

While conference action does not begin un-

til late December, non-conference contests are less than two months away. The Dukes will open the season on Nov. 8, when they welcome Montana to Pittsburgh.

Of Duquesne's 13 non-conference games, just two will take place away from the fieldhouse.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS Duquesne's Kevin Easley Jr. will look to help the team improve in conference action this season.

MSOC remains undefeated through six games

BRENTARO YAMANE layout/multimedia editor

After the Duquesne's men's soccer team defeated Howard 7-0 on Saturday night at Rooney Field, the team snapped its road winning streak at three and its season-opening winning streak at five on Tuesday night, finishing in a 1-1 draw at Wright State.

However, the Dukes are still undefeated at 5-0-1, and it's only the fourth time in school history that the team has started the season

Through the first six games, the team has allowed just two goals.

He has already earned honors this year. Nascimben was named to the College Soccer News Men's National Team of the Week (week ending Aug. 28), as well as being honored as the Atlantic 10 Conference Defensive Player of the Week and as Top Drawer Soccer Men's National Team of the Week this past week.

Nascimben, a graduate student, has recorded four shutouts this season, which is the most he has recorded in a season since

TOWARD CONTROLLED TO THE PARTY OF THE PARTY

PETER BOETTGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Duquesne's Maxi Hopfer fights for positioning against Howard's Asong Nkemanjong in the Dukes' 7-0 win over the Bison on Saturday. Hopfer played for 53 minutes, while also scoring a goal in the victory.

without a loss in their first six games.

A big reason for the success has been Domenic Nascimben, who's started every game as goalkeeper for the Dukes this season, and he has played at a high level. joining the team in 2018. He posted a careerhigh 11 saves in the win against Howard.

After only recording three wins in his first three seasons, Nascimben took a big step last year. At 10-7-2, he helped the

Dukes reach the A-10's championship game against Saint Louis. While the spotlight hasn't always been on him in his career, that's starting to change. He's worked hard to get to where he is today, winning games and receiving national attention.

"You just mature, and you learn from your mistakes. And I think, my time here [at Duquesne] has been amazing," Nascimben said. "I've had some patches here. I've had to work very hard. I think that set me up for a lot of success, in my opinion.

"You always want to be better every single day. And I think they're the biggest things that push me that I know. At the end of the day, I feel like I have the talent. It's just [that] I need to make sure I continue to work hard."

Not only has Nascimben had an excellent start, but his teammates around him have also been consistent. The Dukes have scored 14 goals this season from nine different players, showing that the team has solid depth and that everyone is getting involved. That's a standard that Head Coach Chase Brooks has his players live up to.

"We've got 35 guys on this roster, and a number of them could be starters at multiple NCAA Division I institutions", Brooks said. "So, we're in a very fortunate situation. It's about keeping everybody as motivated as possible and knowing that, again, injuries might happen.

"Everybody's got to be ready for when they get their moments. And so far, the guys are stepping up and doing their job."

Nascimben has admitted that he tries every day to become more of a vocal leader, and that has helped him build a better relationship with his teammates.

"I'll be honest, being more vocal is something I really want to work on as a leader. I think every goalkeeper needs to be a strong vo-

cal leader," Nascimben said. "So that's something I've worked on a lot with the coaches.

"And the best part about it is, I have an incredible back five in front of me who continuously work tirelessly to make sure they're blocking, getting in the way of things and making my job a lot easier. It means a lot."

The Dukes begin A-10 action on Saturday night, when they host Loyola of Chicago at Rooney Field. It will mark the first game as a member of the conference for the Ramblers, who moved to the A-10 in July after a sustained stint in the Missouri Valley Conference.

After the Dukes fell just short in the 2021 conference title game, all that is on the team's mind is finishing this season on top.

"We set some awesome goals looking forward. We want to win the conference, and that has to be something we need to set big," Nascimben said. "Back in the day, we just wanted to make the playoffs for the Atlantic 10.

"It's different now, so we set the goal that we really want to win the conference. And getting so close last year, I think now we really set the foundation to where we want to be in the future, and we have a great group of boys who want to win."



Peter Boettger | Staff Photographer Domenic Nascimben earned his fourth shutout of the season in Saturday's victory.

Football beats Thomas More in home opener

JACK MORGAN staff writer

Despite the game being scoreless at the end of the first quarter, the Duquesne football team took control in the game's final three quarters, defeating Thomas More 34-14 in the team's home opener at Rooney Field on Saturday afternoon.

Before the game, Duquesne honored late Head Coach Dan McCann, who died in May at the age of 88. McCann played a key role in helping to rebuild the program in the late 1960s and eventually moving the program from club level to NCAA Division III.

The Dukes got the ball to begin the game, and they made an immediate impact. On the first play from scrimmage, quarterback Joe Mischler connected with Dwayne Menders on a screen pass for a catch and run of 47 yards. However, the drive stalled inside the Thomas More 5-yard line, and Duquesne kicker Brian Bruzdewicz missed a 20-yard field goal.

Near the end of the opening quarter, Billy Lucas found himself in the end zone, but the touchdown was called back due to a holding penalty. Two plays later, Mischler would be intercepted by the Saints' Del Thomas.

Duquesne was able to sustain momentum on the defensive side of the ball in the first half, recording three sacks. The Dukes finally broke the scoreless tie more than halfway through the second quarter. Three rushes of a combined 27 yards from Billy Lucas got them out of dangerous territory and put them at their own 32-yard line.

Two plays later, Menders broke free off a checkdown pass from Mischler and sprinted 67 yards to the end zone for his first touchdown at Duquesne after spending all of his collegiate career prior to this year at Marist. Menders finished the day with game-highs in both receptions (eight) and receiving yards (165).

After the defense got Thomas More off the field quickly, the offense went back to work at its own 36-yard line. Six plays later, the Dukes were on the board once again thanks to a 19-yard touchdown run from Lucas.

Lucas, who added a second touchdown later in the contest, ran for an average of 7.2 yards/carry (136 yards on 19 carries) in the win. He attributed his success to the team's offensive line, saying that they "played really well and executed what we had to come out with."

Following an interception of Thomas More quarterback Blaine Espinosa with 17 seconds to go before halftime, the Dukes ran two plays and got into field goal range. Bruzdewicz was good from 37 yards out, and Duquesne took a 17-0 lead into the locker room.

After the teams exchanged touchdowns,

the Dukes still held a 17-point lead early in the fourth quarter. When Duquesne took the field for its first drive of the final quarter, Mischler was relieved by Darius Perrantes. Mischler finished his day completing 18 of 23 passes for 241 yards.

Bruzdewicz kicked his second field goal of the day to push the Dukes' lead to 20 points with just under eight minutes left in the game. The two teams would again exchange touchdowns, and the Dukes were able to cap off their 15th-straight victory in a home opener. Duquesne has not lost a home opener since 2007, when the program lost to Bucknell.

Jerry Schmitt saw a trend heading into the game that created a game plan that heavily focused on running the ball.

"They weren't always dropping enough guys into the box, and they were going to continue to do that," Schmitt said. "We could run the football and even when they did, our receivers did a good job getting on. That helped us get our running game going."

After taking on an FBS opponent in the season's opening week, the Dukes will get another crack this weekend. Duquesne will travel to Honolulu to take on Hawaii for the second time in five seasons.

In 2018, the Dukes were able to get out to a 14-0 lead on the Rainbow Warriors. However, Hawaii stormed back and won by a 4221 tally. So far this season, Hawaii is 0-3 and has lost by an average of 43.7 points/game. For many guys on the team, this will be more than just a football trip.

"I [have] never been [anywhere] like that," Lucas said. "Football is always taking [up] most of your time trying to travel. So, going somewhere like that is going to be great. I can't wait."



Peter Boettger | Staff Photographer Billy Lucas finds his way into the end zone in Duquesne's 34-14 victory over Thomas More.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Taco 'bout a good time in the Strip District

MEGAN TROTTER

staff writer

On Saturday, Pittsburgh held its annual Taco Festival in the Strip District, celebrating what organizers describe as "the greatest handfood known to man."

Partnering with Pittsburgh Hispanic Development Corporation (PHDC) and the Latin American Cultural Union (LACU), a mix of food trucks, music, product booths and dancing took over Smallman Street from 12:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Many of the food trucks and taco booths were run by family-owned businesses looking to expand and gain exposure.

Jeimy Ibarra, co-owner of El Colibri LLC with her mother and husband, shared how they used to have a food stand in Mexico. However, since moving to the United States and reopening in the past month, they don't have a permanent location. In order to continue to share the tradition of their family recipes, they have been holding pop-up shops at farmer markets and local coffee shops.

"My husband is from Oaxaca, and he makes the birria, and then my mom makes all the vegan food," Ibarra said. "A lot of Mexican food is actually vegan. People don't know that because it's not labeled that way, because then it scares people away."

Birria is a Mexican dish of beef slowly cooked for three hours or more in a five-chili sauce. Ibarra also shared that even though quesadillas are not a traditional food, they decided to incorporate them because of their popularity. Despite only being open for one month, the El Colibri LLC team said they were happy with their success so far. According to the team, they would sell out of all their food during smaller pop-up events, and had an extensive line at their booth throughout the duration of the festival.



MEGAN TROTTER | STAFF WRITER
Ricardo Santos stands in front of a
food truck for his restaurant, J. Zapata.

Similarly, family-owned Inmortales Fondita also served traditional Mexican dishes. They added that one of the good things they do is that they only use fresh fruit to

make their signature margaritas.

Owner Gricelda Martinez said that over the years, the Taco Festival has always brought more customers into their restaurant. Each year, they hope to gain more clients.

Ricardo Santos, restaurant owner of J. Zapata, shared a different reason for attending the event for the second time as a vendor.

"I came here to have fun," Santos said. "I'm not just in the business. I'm also passionate for what I do. My passion is cooking."

In the spirit of fun, Santos proudly wore a large taco-shaped hat, despite spending the entire day cooking under the sun and in the heat.

Unlike many of the other local and family-owned vendors, franchise chain Moe's Southwest Grill was also at the event.

"Events like this, people usually just come to experience the 'momand-pop' taco places," said Moe's marketing director Kaitlyn Norman. "If people don't want to wait in line or some people [say] 'Oh, we love Moe's tacos,' then they'll come to us."

Norman said that Moe's attended to build brand awareness. Although they weren't particularly busy, she was still having fun while working the event.

One of the more popular food fanfavorites for the day was the "Mexican street corn" from California Taco Shop. This dish is corn on the cob charred on the grill, and then slathered in a spicy and creamy mix of mayonnaise, sour cream, cotija cheese, chili powder and lime.

With over 25 vendors contributing to this year's festival, there was

no absence of entertainment.

Mariachi International played a lively two-hour set featuring trumpets, guitars, violins and dancers as well as traditional charro suits. Guitarist Gustavo Galupila shared that they have played at the taco festival since it was founded in 2016 by Craig McCloud.

Crowds of all ages gathered at Los Sabrosos Dance Co.'s booth to learn step-by-step how to salsa dance. Even with a few missteps, laughs and good times were in abundance.

Aside from the cuisine, the Taco Festival also featured several clothing and jewelry booths, local artists and even a gentleman drawing caricatures.

Karina Buari is the owner of Hipdrippp: a pop-up shop focused on featuring items such as handmade bracelets, earrings and bags from both Mexico and Africa. Buari shared how the Taco Festival provided her with an opportunity to share her culture.

"I feel good being able to showcase my culture to Pittsburgh," Buari said. "I feel it's nice that people see it as beautiful, just like I see it as beautiful."

With both parents born in Mexico and growing up in Chicago, Buari said she noticed the scarcity of Hispanic culture in Pittsburgh. She hopes to eventually move to Texas, where there is a larger Hispanic population and open a permanent Hipdrippp location there.

In the meantime, she shared that events like this provide her with an atmosphere of feeling at home and more of "her kind together."

CAMPUS EVENTS

Positivity + Paint Sept. 15 @ 7 p.m.

Join Duquesne's Ebony Women for a paint and sip and a discussion on Black mental health.

> Boba Tea Tasting Sept. 15 @ 9 p.m.

Go to Union 119 for free boba tea, and to learn more about the history of the beverage!

> Food Truck Fridays Sept. 16 @ 11 a.m.

You know the drill!

Take a stroll down A-Walk
for free food and fun!

DU Nite: Block Party Sept. 16 @ 9 p.m.

Go to Mellon Patio for music, food and fun. Everyone's invited!

Southside Park Project Sept. 17 @ 9 a.m.

Join Duquesne's Community Service Events in a Southside clean-up! Wear comfortable clothing. Contact pustorinoa@ duq.edu if interested.

CAPRI'S KIND WORDS

Protect your peace

Surround yourself with kindness.
Surround yourself with good.
Be the good, see the good, believe there is good.

I cannot emphasize enough that what you put into this world is what you get out of it. What you expose yourself to is often what will come of your day, your week and so on.

It's up to you to create an environment you feel at peace in. This could mean decorating your room a little cozier, spending time with people that aim to uplift, or giving yourself an hour a day to rest your mind and relax.

Immersing yourself in negativity is draining. It's okay to take a step away from people that drain your energy, or taking a break from school after a long day. You are not obligated to do a single thing that threatens your peace.

Hard days are normal. Ranting is okay.
But make sure that you are doing what
you can to respect your own boundaries; create an environment you can
grow and flourish in.

—Capri Scarcelli



Aquarius

Gemini

Libra

I'm a kidder. A jokester. A silly

I will wear my purple flower pants every day until day I die

little clown.

Mario Party Slay!

Megan Trotter | Staff Writer Members of the crowd learn how to salsa dance at the Pittsburgh Taco Festival, held on Smallman Street in the Strip District on Saturday afternoon.

Pisces
I'm warning you with peace and love, but I have TOO MUCH to

Cancer

So you still play Candy Crush

Scorpio

My hair is really curly no look actually how curly it is when it's curly do you see how curly my —

Aries Queen Elizabeth II was an Aries.

Queen Elizabeth II was an Aries. This horoscope is postponed due to mourning.

Leo

Performers from Mariachi International dance on stage during Saturday's Pitts-

burgh Taco Festival. They've performed at every festival, dating back to 2016.

cowboy emoji

Sagittarius

My power is out, but my swagger is in.

Taurus The moon told me it's okay you

MEGAN TROTTER | STAFF WRITER

___ Virgo

PEACE AND LOVE PEACE AND

LOVE! Capricorn

But like imagine I'm sitting there organizing my Spotify and I hear the window cleaners on the roof

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Pittsburgh Irish Festival celebrates 31st year

EMILY FRITZ staff writer

Irish Partnership Pittsburgh celebrated its 31st-annual Pittsburgh Irish Festival this past weekend. The festival saw around 25,000 attendees this year at a new venue and National Historic Landmark — Carrie Blast Furnaces.

Mairin Petrone, the executive director for the festival and Duquesne University alumnus said, "This new venue was so 'Pittsburgh' and so beautiful" and that the Carrie Blast Furnaces were the "perfect backdrop for the vibrancy of our event."

Petrone has lent her talents to the festival since its first year in 1991. In just over three decades, the festival has changed and adapted, but Petrone said that "we all come together to celebrate culture, as "everyone involved and attending the Pittsburgh Irish Festival is family."

The festival was a three-day weekend event that was filled to the brim with Irish food, entertainment and vendors.

Among the anticipated line-up of Irish musicians and entertainers was Shannon Lambert-Ryan, one of the vocalists for the Irish folk band RUNA. Lambert-Ryan said "Irish festivals are usually pretty open and welcoming to a pretty broad scope of people."

For groups like RUNA, the importance of Irish festivals originates with the communities that host them and the Irish heritage that they celebrate.

One of the ways RUNA supports the local areas where they perform for is through sock drives. At the Pittsburgh Irish Festival, they asked in advance for attendees to bring a pair of socks to donate, which RUNA then gave to those in need within the Pittsburgh area.

For the Irish community present at the festival, they serve through their music and the passing on of Irish history embedded in the songs they play.

"The Holy Ground," a song originally by Gerry O'Beirne, highlights the plights of Irish soldiers during the Mexican-American War, which resulted in the present-day Texas border.

Although RUNA is known for their folk characteristics, they include several unique instruments, most notably in their use of auxiliary percussion. Lambert-Ryan plays a traditional Irish instrument called the bodhrán, but the group's other female vocalist incorporates instruments such as the djembe, bongos, chimes and tambourine.

Their instrumentation lends itself to the Irish heritage celebrated at the fes-

Attendees who were musically inclined were also encouraged to bring their own personal instruments to join in the festivities. Those who did were awarded with free admission and the opportunity to perform informally.

Along with the bands that belonged to the entertainment line-up were other traditional acts and demonstrations, such as step dancing. Five Farms Irish Cream also hosted a kitchen to present baking demonstrations for traditional Irish and Irish-inspired dishes.

Lambert-Ryan participated in the entertainment offerings with her son by presenting a workshop on traditional Irish shortbread been possible without the hard work and dedication of its staff.

"I know I'm biased, but I do sincerely feel that my favorite part of the festival is meeting and working with our great volunteers," said volunteer organizer Mary Ann Ging. "Many of the volunteers have been coming for years and we've developed personal friendships."

Volunteers working the festival can be responsible for almost any area, including Leprechaun Landing, the pubs, stages, artist merchandise, merchandise sales and ticketing.

Ging also told *The Duke* that there are many perks to being a volunteer for the festival.

"We have a volunteer party prior to the festival and provide free admission, t-shirts, snacks and other benefits to the volunteers during their shifts," Ging said. "We try to create an environment where volunteers can have a fun experience, while also supporting the festival."

Having worked with the festival for three decades, Ging remains passionate about her Irish heritage and the community that she has helped to cultivate.

"The festival volunteer group is a wonderful community. It's a great place to meet new people and reconnect with old friends," Ging said. "We look forward to getting together each year to listen to music, eat great food and support an organization that we love."

Current Duquesne graduate student and Duquesne in Dublin alumnus Grace Furman also shared her experiences with the Pittsburgh Irish Festival and her semester abroad last fall.

"The Irish festival definitely made me feel very nostalgic for my time in Ireland," Furman said. "I had so much fun while I was there, and if anything, it motivated me to go back even sooner than I was already planning."



EMILY FRITZ | STAFF WRITER

Gaelic Storm took to the Jameson Amphitheater stage at the 31st Pittsburgh Irish Festival, which was hosted this year at Carrie Blast Furnaces.

tivals they attend, while also promoting a greater diversity and deeper love for music as they travel.

Other musical groups included Gaelic Storm, Screaming Orphans, Bastard Bearded Irishmen, The Bow Tides, The Friel Sisters and Donnie Irish and Welsh cakes.

Axe throwing, Irish genealogy, raffles and mini-golf were offered. An Irish marketplace hosted vendors selling festival merchandise, Irish garments, jewelry, crafts and name plaques.

A festival of this size would not have

74th Emmys held in Los Angeles

The 2022 Emmys took place at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles on Monday.

Kenan Thompson, a cast member of Saturday Night Live, hosted the award show, warming hearts and providing a comedic atmosphere for all. He made jokes about Leonardo Di-Caprio's awkward dating habits and danced to remixed songs.

Some fan favorites like "Succession", "Ted Lasso" and "The White Lotus" won top awards for Best Drama Series, Best Comedy Series and Best Limited or Anthology Series, respectively. Mike White, the director and writer for "The White Lotus," got two awards for the show.

Some of the best moments of the night included Lizzo winning an Emmy for "Watch Out for the Big Grrrls" and Sheryl Lee Ralph giving an enlightening speech after showing off her impressive singing skills. Ralph won Outstanding Performing Actress in a Comedy Series.

"Squid Game" also dominated the award show this year — being nominated for five awards and making many historical firsts. "Squid Game" is the first South Korean series and first non-English television series to win at the awards. Hwang Dong-hyuk, the creator of the series, won the drama directing Emmy as the first Asian and Korean person to win the award.

Lee Jung-jae, the lead actor of "Squid Games," also won the Emmy for Best Actor in a Drama. This was a historic win, being that Jung-jae was the first actor from a non-English show to win the award.

Zendaya won best actress in a drama series for her captivating performance as Rue in "Euphoria." She is now the youngest person to ever win Outstanding Lead Actress in a drama series twice. Zendaya is also the first Black woman to win twice in the category. Her speech also called attention to all those who see themselves in her character "Rue," and she expressed her appreciation to represent such strong individuals.

She said, "I want you to know that anyone who has loved a Rue or feels like they are Rue, I want you to know that I'm so grateful for your stories, and I carry them with me, and I carry them with her."

-Mia Lubrani, Staff Writer

Reviewing Ringo's "All-Starr" performance

CAPRI SCARCELLI
a&e editor

On Saturday at PPG Paints Arena, we all lived in a yellow submarine with Ringo Starr and his All-Starr Band.

After the Beatles split in 1969, Ringo kicked off his solo career in the 1970s, though he didn't create his ever-evolving, under-appreciated misfit group until 1989. In 2022, at the age of 82, Ringo is still touring with his current band of friends: Steve Lukather (Toto), Colin Hay (Men at Work), Warren Ham (The Four Seasons), Gregg Bissonette (Electric Light Orchestra), Hamish Stuart (Average White Band) and Edgar Winter (David Lee Roth Band).

The concert was short and sweet, starting at 7:30 p.m., and ending just around 9:40 p.m. The setlist included various works from Ringo's solo career, a few Beatles teasers and hit songs from the band members' respective musical groups. The arena was filled with a polite audience of old and young — smiles in every seat.

Best known as the Beatles' drum-

mer, Ringo spent a majority of the show at his drum set, though did a cute, little-old-man sway when he came up to the microphone for his solo pieces. He had cheesy transitions from song to song, always throwing in a "peace and love" before going into his next set. The starry backdrop with tie-dyed peace signs were incredibly suiting, setting me back to a time I wasn't even alive for.

Ringo's stage presence had me giggling the whole show, especially when he passionately sang his solo pieces that not many of the audience members knew. "It Don't Come Easy," "I'm the Greatest," "Back Off Boogaloo" and "Photograph" were the only Ringo songs played, but it was still great to see him excited to perform.

Ringo is a traditional, old-school performer. He stands still at center stage with his microphone, doing little movements to keep with the beat, while gesturing to his fellow performers with either his hand or his drumstick for the audience to cheer for his friends, too.

In fact, Ringo disappeared for about

20 minutes as his fellow bandmates performed guitar solos, saxophone trios, drum sequences and more. Stellar performances of "Rosanna," "Johnny B. Goode" and "Land Down Under" particularly stood out to me as songs I wouldn't expect to hear when seeing Ringo Starr, but I couldn't have been more elated to hear them live.

When Ringo would head downstage to sing again, I was overjoyed. His quirky dialogue was enough entertainment as is, thanking the audience for "the lights" (iPhone flashlights) for every single song. He made jabs at John Lennon songs he didn't feel like playing (or perhaps didn't have the rights to play). He also called out an audience member for talking over top of him, saying, "I do quite love it when you shout at me, but not while I'm talking! Peace and love!"

I was pleasantly surprised to hear old Beatles' hits like "What Goes On," "Octopus' Garden," "Yellow Submarine," "I Wanna Be Your Man." He closed the show by performing "With A Little Help From My Friends." These care-free, whimsical pieces healed my

inner child when I heard them live.

Better yet, when my friend and I were two of the only people in the audience physically fit enough to jump up and cheer, Ringo Starr himself proclaimed into the microphone, "Don't think I don't see you girls back there!"

Ringo closed out his set thanking the audience for a beautiful night, saying, "You know the rest!" as "Give Peace a Chance" cadenced until his final "peace and love" and bow.

No encore was needed. It was a perfect night with an All-Starr band.



CAPRI SCARCELLI | A&E EDITOR
A plethora of peace symbols set
the backdrop for Ringo Starr's
performance at PPG Paints Arena.

OPINIONS

THEDUQUESNEDUKE

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"In a country well governed, poverty is something to be ashamed of. In a country badly governed, wealth is something to be ashamed of."

CONFUCIUS

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

@TheDuquesneDuke

EDITORIAL

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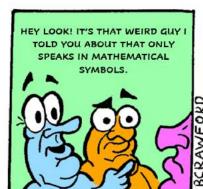
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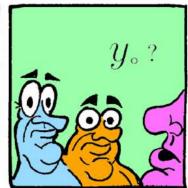
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BENJAMIN CRAWFORD | STAFF COMIC ARTIST

The affordability of being broke in our country

This summer, I got a brief taste of what many Americans have to deal with every day.

I was broke. I was putting \$7 in the gas tank hoping that would be enough until payday — broke. I was cashing in my spare change at the Coinstar in Giant Eagle — broke. I hit the "ignore button" on unrecognizable numbers in fear of them being debt collectors — broke.

I had unforeseen expenses and had not properly budgeted for the summer months. I also credit my inefficient financial decision making to the fact that I consider myself some type of artist, and it is my belief that true artistry cannot be bothered with the workings of a rigged capitalist system, or that was the lame excuse I used.

While I joke, and my experience is not that different from what many more traditional college students have to go through, it opened up my eyes to the very real and serious problem that way too many Americans, especially nonwhite Americans, have to endure.

It is expensive to not have money. I was absolutely fine. I am a white, semi-attractive, relatively young man from a Midwest middle-class family. I am also a combat veteran. I was born into a systematically protected class that shields me from the true depths of the woes of society almost as much as a Bezos, a Gates or a Musk. However, my fortunate reality of having a financially sound support group is not shared by many Americans, and the consequences of that can be horrifying.

My temporary financial afflictions are not comparable to the struggles of those with less privilege. The only real repercussion of me not having money was my inability to buy the chewing tobacco that I prefer. This pales in comparison to the true hardships that single mothers, women of color, middle-class families, college graduates straddled with student debt or any number of underrepresented groups in society have to go through on a daily basis. While my experiences were not nearly as dire as what many Americans face today, I was able to take a glimpse into the dystopian reality that plagues so many.

It is really expensive to be poor. It is taxing financially, mentally and even at times physically. Much like how our court system is structured, there is a predatory cycle that thrives off of preying on certain groups. This cycle of debt sucks them in and makes it extremely challenging, if not impossible, to get out of. If I had any worthy financial advice, it would be simple:



ZACH PETROFF opinions editor

Avoid being poor, because once you are stuck in that cycle, you may never be able to get out of it.

One of the harsh, yet subtle, realities of not having money is the level of shame that accompanies being financially unstable. Somehow, we decided as a culture to base one's morality on their economic status. We have normalized putting the worth of someone based on their literal net worth. While it may be difficult to quantify the level of mental anguish in terms of self-esteem that is bestowed on those that are economically downtrodden, it can wreak havoc on one's mental health.

We worship billionaires, while we villainize the poor.

According to the 2022 Annual

Wealth and Wellness Index, only 53% of Americans are in a position to handle an unforeseen \$500 expense without worry.

That means that almost half of Americans cannot easily come up with \$500 on the spot, and when a desperate situation arises, there tends to be a lack of options. This is when people are forced to take part in predatory lending practices.

In a country that branded itself a predominantly Christian nation, it is absolutely baffling that we have allowed such unethical financial institutions to routinely prey upon one of the most vulnerable groups in our society: The poor. This immoral behavior feasts upon those in dire situations who may not be financially literate, or just plain desperate to take personal loans with interest rates as high as 30%.

Being broke also has some alarming effects on one's physical wellbeing. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 13.5 million (10.2% of the population) Americans were "food insecure" at some time during 2021. Food insecurity is the state of being without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food.

Eating healthy is expensive. It requires knowledge, time and more capital to properly participate in a healthy lifestyle for a family. Federal food programs and family assistance programs are prohibitive in what a person can buy. When on a fixed budget with food insecurity, one is often forced to choose quantity over quality.

When coming from a place of privilege, it is easy to look down at situations we hopefully never have to experience. We can offer unsolicited and inauthentic advice as we turn our noses up and pretend that complex poverty issues are fixed by "pulling oneself up by their bootstraps" or some other ridiculous, non-practical cliche.

The cycle of poverty is unforgiving, and while it may not directly affect you today, as the middle class continues to shrink, this could soon be a reality for more people than we realize.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Fetterman doesn't need to debate

As the November election approaches, John Fetterman Pennsylvania's Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate - has agreed to debate Republican challenger Mehmet Oz sometime in October, right before the election.

Fetterman doesn't need to debate Oz. Fetterman is eight points ahead of Oz as of now, according to FiveThirtyEight. Why agree to debate?

The choice is an odd one, considering that Fetterman had a stroke in May and has been dealing with lingering health issues ever since. Fetterman misspeaks a lot when he does give public speeches. For example, during a speech he gave in Pittsburgh, he mixed up the words win and work. He quickly corrected himself and apologized for his mistake.

Fetterman's campaign said that he suffers from auditory processing issues, something many stroke survivors deal with. Fetterman goes to speech therapy a few times a week, according to his campaign team. The campaign team also said that Fetterman does best in oneon-one situations, with Fetterman using closed captions to help him understand the questions better. Fetterman also has not taken questions from reporters at events to help avoid confusion.

Oz has been attacking Fetterman for his health issues, saying that Fetterman isn't fit to serve in the U.S. Senate due to his stroke. Oz calls Fetterman "a liar" and says that Fetterman needs to disclose the true state of his health to the general public, something the Fetterman team says they have been doing. Oz attacking Fetterman's health has not helped Oz's campaign, as many don't think Oz should be attacking someone who is actively recovering.

Fetterman and Oz have not debated against each other. Fetterman participated in the state's Democratic U.S. Senate debate in April, a debate in which he did not perform well, and was considered by many to have lost.

Debating is not Fetterman's strongest asset. Right now, he has been doing well against opponent Oz in his social media campaign, where he repeatedly brings up how Oz is not from Pennsylvania and how he lives in New Jersey. Fetterman and his campaign even went as far as getting Snooki - a wellknown New Jersey celebrity - to talk about how Oz is from the state. Fetterman's consistent attack on Oz for his residency is workin

Fetterman agreeing to debate Oz was a smart move that can show voters that he is healthy enough to be a senator, but it can also backfire against him. If Fetterman does not do well against Oz during the debate, it could give Oz's claim that Fetterman is not fit to serve more power and more voters could turn their back against Fetterman.

He should also focus on his health, considering what the polls look like.

OPINIONS

Queen Elizabeth II's death marked by disrespect

EMILY THEROUX staff writer

Tragedy, as a concept, is often linked to the subjects of mourning where one is overcome with sorrow, or the state of reflection that exists to compensate for the hollowness that crashes in after a loss.

On Sept. 8, the entire world experienced something that fits the description of a tragedy when Queen Elizabeth II passed away at the age of 96. The predictable declarations of veneration and reminiscence outpoured from prominent figures like Barack and Michelle Obama, Janet Jackson and Elton John. The overarching tone exhibited from the American public was not very reverent. Usually, tragedy breeds sorrow. In the case of the queen's death, however, tragedy bred comedy and a severe lack of empathy.

If you were to look into the online sphere following the queen's passing, you might be eligible for financial compensation for the neck injuries sustained due to the whiplash of content displayed.

There are those who expressed their sadness, and there are those who simply sat in awe of the queen's unprecedented 70-year reign. She was the United Kingdom's longest-reigning monarch and the second-longest reigning monarch in the world, as well as the last head of state who served during World War II. During her lifetime, many significant moments in history occurred; DNA's double he-



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Queen Elizabeth II died Sept. 8 at the age of 96, after ascending to the throne at age 25. In the days since her death, Elizabeth's life and legacy have been both praised and scrutinized by those on social media.

lix was discovered, the first organ transplant occurred and Neil Armstrong walked on the moon.

Despite the shock that resulted in remembrance of the queen, some extended their criticism of her decisions and character, thus putting forth the notion that some should be held accountable for pain caused despite no longer being able to apologize. Uju Anya, a professor at Carnegie Mellon University, tweeted that she hoped the monarch's pain would be "excruciating" because Elizabeth was in power when Great Britain overtly supported a violent Nigerian civil war. Anya's birthplace is Enugu State, Nigeria.

Her tweet was undoubtedly vul-

gar, but it still contains genuine criticism that reflects the actions of the late queen. It is not exactly a mockery of the tragedy, but rather a reminder that, although the queen was an immediate member of modern history, she was not a perfect monarch and caused pain to further the U.K.'s agenda.

There has been praise, reflection and critique of the queen's passing.

However, there is a disturbing aspect of the public outcry to her death: memes.

Many have taken a rather-insensitive comedic approach to discussing the queen's passing, which highlights a problematic pattern in modern culture when it comes to social media platforms. Despite many of these jokes resulting in a surprised chuckle or a quick like, they take away from the gravity of the situation that is being ignored for a cheap laugh.

While there is much to criticize about the queen, let it not be lost that she was a monumental part of the U.K. 's history, starting at the age of 25.

Regardless of whether you agreed with her policies, her decisions or her general demeanor, the queen was a woman who was thrust into power, and was a part of a family who is currently grieving both publicly and privately.

The Twitter campaign of memes that rehash the queen's relationship with Princess Diana, emphasize poorly taken pictures of her or simply mock the fact that she has died add nothing to the narrative of her reign.

All that happens when a tragedy is mocked by the masses is further proof that human society is regressing in the manner of respect.

It is perfectly reasonable to share a critique of the late queen, even in a harsh manner, for her various actions that have caused other deaths, pain and suffering. Conversely, it is fair to remark on positive experiences with the queen and the achievements made during her reign. Public response is never polarized to a singular stance, and that is okay.

Public discourse is the aftermath of opinion and tragedy, which can be interpreted in hundreds of different lights to serve a thousand different agendas. That is human nature.

The queen's death has been met by mourning, reverence, criticism and a lack of decorum.

The barriers that used to govern public mannerisms have become bendable to the point of breaking since the invention of social media.

Everyone can have a platform without attaching their name to it.

There is no sense of accountability to fully stand behind what you're posting.

Because of this, we're all becoming desensitized to tragedies and losing the essence of respectable and argument.

Give Trubisky a chance to guide the ship

<u>LUKE HENNE</u> editor-in-chief

When it comes to sports, I'm a firm believer in athletes having the chance to succeed unless they do something that warrants that opportunity being taken away from them.

Whether that's off-the-field behavior or on-the-field performance, things happen. In Cleveland, Deshaun Watson's behavior warranted a suspension. In Seattle, Drew Lock's preseason struggles called for Geno Smith to be named the starter.

Here in Pittsburgh, Steelers quarterback Mitch Trubisky has become the subject of scrutiny. Should he start? Should he be benched in favor of Kenny Pickett, the Steelers' first-round selection in the 2022 National Football League Draft?

Trubisky's performance in Sunday's season-opening, overtime win against the Cincinnati Bengals was nothing special, but he wasn't terrible. He completed 21 passes for 194 yards and a touchdown.

Yes, that only equates to 9.2 yards/completion. Yes, the Steelers' top three wide receivers (Diontae Johnson, Chase Claypool, George Pickens) only combined for 76 receiving yards. Yes, the offense was way too con-

servative, and Trubisky needs to get a chance to air the ball out more.

However, Trubisky was just fine. He didn't throw any interceptions (Joe Burrow, his counterpart, threw four). He took just one sack, which feels like a win considering how bad Pittsburgh's offensive line is expected to be this season.

In regulation, he did nothing special. In overtime, however, he looked solid.

His 25-yard connection with Diontae Johnson on the Steelers' second of three overtime drives did not result in any points, but it showed what the tandem can do when Trubisky tries to get the ball downfield.

On the final drive, where Chris Boswell kicked a game-winning, 53-yard field goal, perhaps it was Trubisky who saved the Steelers from what would have been their third tie in the last five seasons.

On a 3rd-and-1 where Cincinnati's Sam Hubbard was flagged for going offside, Trubisky had Jaylen Warren open for a dump off that likely wouldn't have resulted in a gain of more than 10 yards. Instead, he took advantage of the free play and found tight end Pat Freiermuth over the middle for a 26-yard connection. Those yards made all the difference when it came time for Boswell to head onto the field.

There are things to clean up. Trubisky appeared to be throwing off his back foot more often than not, a recipe that could lead to dangerous plays against alert defenses.

All things considered, it was an average performance from Trubisky. Despite it being average, the Steelers still found a way to win a road game against a divisional opponent, not to mention that it was against the defending American Football Conference (AFC) champion.

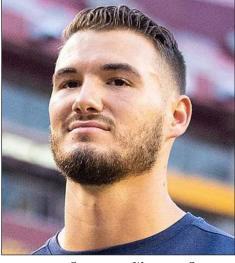
The Steelers' schedule is very favorable over the next three weeks. Pittsburgh has games against the New England Patriots (home), the Cleveland Browns (away) and the New York Jets (home). It's certainly unlikely, but there's a chance that the Steelers could take a 4-0 record into a road contest in week five against the Buffalo Bills, a presumptive Super Bowl favorite.

If the offensive line doesn't pan out, wouldn't you rather have Trubisky — now in his sixth season in the league — navigating around the circumstances rather than Kenny Pickett? If Pickett goes down to injury, a big piece of the future is compromised almost instantly.

In all reality, Trubisky is probably not as big a piece of the franchise's future as Pickett is. But, Trubisky is also getting paid over \$7 million this season and in 2023, so you ride it out with him.

You don't bench a veteran quarterback who can at least give you a chance to win in favor of someone who's never played a regular-season game in the NFL before.

Enjoy the ride. Pickett will get his chance soon enough. Until then, appreciate the fact that the transition from Ben Roethlisberger to Trubisky doesn't appear to be too bumpy.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
Quarterback Mitch Trubisky threw for 194 yards
and a touchdown in Pittsburgh's victory on Sunday.

FEATURES

Neighborhood Flea's season coming to a close

ISABELLA ABBOTT features editor

Although the morning started off with gentle rain and clouds, flea market lovers were still fleeing to the Strip District for their favorite vintage items and handmade greeting cards.

The Neighborhood Flea, whose 2022 season started on May 8, had its second-to-last market on Sunday. Open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month from May to October, the flea market features a variety of different tents, including ones with handmade jewelry pieces, patterned tote bags and Pittsburgh-themed paintings.

Walking through, patrons could see dozens of dogs walking around and small groups of college-aged students with vivid hair colors shopping for wall decor or trying to locate a vintage sweatshirt from their favorite sports team.

Although the market is located at The Stacks at 3 Crossings between 28th Street and Railroad Street in the Strip District, it's easy to find due to the abundance of various food truck aromas and throwback music blasting over speakers.

Carlee Shreve, a first-time tent renter at The Neighborhood Flea and an undergraduate student at Chatham University, said the atmosphere at the market was thrilling.

"I like the aura," Shreve said. "I can very much be myself when I'm here."

Her business, Dragonflies & Lavender, is a woman-owned business featuring graphic illustrations available in stickers, small accessories and prints. At her table, market-goers can also find a year-long Pride Collection containing hand-drawn designs representing the meaning of "Love is Love."

As a graphic design student, she's able to put what she's learned in the classroom into her



ISABELLA ABBOTT | FEATURES EDITOR

Meghan McCormick operated her booth, named "I wet my plants," during Sunday's Neighborhood Flea. She operates a do-it-yourself workshop that allows customers to make products from scratch.

business, which is what every college student strives to do early in their career.

"This is all my graphic illustration work," Shreve said. "I get it made into T-shirts and prints, and stickers, keychains, magnets and then I sell them that way."

Meghan McCormick, another vendor at the market, is excited to show shoppers what her do-it-yourself workshop is all about with her booth titled, "I wet my plants."

"I'm introducing the world to our shop here," McCormick said.

Her store, Creative D.I.Y. Workshop, is an instructor-led, do-it-yourself workshop that allows anyone, artist or not, to come and make a product of their choosing from scratch. The workshop even offers pre-made or make-it-yourself products, along with step-by-step instructions from teachers during the workshop period.

At the market, all shoppers had to do was walk into her greenery-designed and color-filled booth, where they could then pay to make their own unique potted plants. All of the needed tools were laid out and prepared for customers to use as well.

Willing customers can visit 535 Clever Road in McKees Rocks for classes and upcoming events. An upcoming event, the Bubbles & Bling jewelry container-making workshop, will happen on Sept. 23 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Past the wide array of vintage clothing and handmade paintings, and next to the crepe food truck, market-goers could find a variety of artisan candles and skin care goods at Chez Lapin, an eco-friendly, cruelty-free and woman-owned company based in Pittsburgh.

Claire Landuyt, the owner of Chez Lapin, said although the rain was a factor in customers' attendance, they still had a good turnout.

"I'd say we've had a good amount of customers," Landuyt said. "Not as much as in years or in months past, which is partially due to weather, but [there's] definitely decent traffic and nice, new customers."

At her booth, the company strives to handcraft products that allow people to practice good self-care by making their high-quality skincare affordable. In addition, by asking customers to bring back their old candle jars for credit on their next order, they're able to repurpose them and eliminate waste, showing that the company has also made strong efforts to reduce their carbon footprint in the world.

If any of these booths spark students' interest, be sure to visit the Strip District for the Neighborhood Flea's final Sunday market this season on Oct. 9. People can park in the Hive Parking Garage at the intersection of 28th Street and Railroad Street for \$5 on flea day.



ISABELLA ABBOTT | FEATURES EDITOR Handmade greeting cards were prominently displayed during Sunday's Neighborhood Flea event.

Students help make blankets for homeless

KAITLIN HUGHES

staff writer

Duquesne University students gathered in the Union on Thursday to help create blankets for the homeless, an event that comes every fall season.

From 9 p.m. to 10 p.m., any interested students were able to stop down to Room 119 in the Union to make warmth for those who may not have access to it.

Evan Frizzell, the graduate assistant for Union Operations and Night Spot Programming (UONSP), believed that it would be a perfect time to make blankets for the homeless as a service project because "the winter months are coming."

Frizzell also provided insight and instructions on how students could make colorful and pattern-oriented blankets.

"I think the ones out right now are all kits," Frizzell said. "It's just two pieces of fleece fabric and about every inch you'll cut an inch or two up. And then, after you do all those, you'll go back and tie them so that it makes a double-layered fleece blanket."

Students from any grade or any major were welcome.

The event was not only a great way to give back to the community, but it was also a creative outlet for students participating. Alexis Cross said that she not only wanted to help, but she also wanted to make something that was unique and creative.

Cross usually creates pieces with whatever she can find at home, so this event was right up her alley. But, she found the process of blanket making to be a little tricky the first time around.

"Trying to tie the knots in the blanket, that's kind of hard," Cross said.

Similar to others participating, this event had a positive impact on Cross, who said she felt good to be able to help others.

"I like helping people," Cross said. "It lets you be free."

Some students in attendance even treated this event as a social opportunity, including Katherine Zhou and Natasha Karlik, who came together in order to spend

time with one another while giving back to the community.

"It's a great opportunity to spend time with your friends," Zhou said.

They found the event through their student emails.

"I saw the student email about all the events today," Karlik said. "There was also salsa dancing ... I chose to come here because I wanted to give back to people who are in need and people who ... may not have the same warmth, home or things as I do.

"[It's] just a way to give back to the community."

Two students, Leak Mrosko and Sophie Perrino, were not even planning on attending this event, but said they were delighted to go when they heard about the cause. Perrino said she picked up the technique fairly quickly.

"Once you get the hang of it, it's pretty straightforward," Perrino said. "I've never done this before, but it was pretty easy for me to grasp. "It's not too timeconsuming, either." Mrosko agreed, saying that "it's not physically straining" and that "anyone can do it."



Kaitlin Hughes | Staff Writer Students gathered in Room 119 of the Union last Thursday to help make blankets for the homeless.



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