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Dukes defeat Loyola of Chicago at home	Students celebrate Lunar New Year	A plea to stop militarizing police	DU grad kicks off dream career with NFL
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THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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Duquesne caught a bug: Duquesne restoring trust with students after pests are found in Union kitchen

A promise for a better future at the 25th annual Racial Justice Summit

ZACH PETROFF
opinions editor

For 25 years, activists from the Pittsburgh area have come together to hold a Racial Justice Summit (RJS) during the week of Martin Luther King Jr. 's birthday. Activists and members of the community came together Friday and Saturday at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in East Liberty. The events included keynote speakers, workshops, discussions, wellness sessions and a community resource room. This year's summit centered around honoring the past while building for a strong future. The RJS began in 1998 after frustrations built over the death of Jonny Gammage, a young Black man whose life was ended by the Pittsburgh and Brentwood police in 1995. His death was ruled a homicide by the Allegheny County coroner. All of the officers charged were either granted a mistrial or acquitted. "The Racial Justice Summit was one of the most important outcomes of that tragedy," said Tim Stevens, founder of the summit. "Including, on the positive side, the awarding of scholarships every year to Black law students who have a commitment to deal with civil human rights and social justice." Friday night kicked off with the Keynote panelist which consisted of Auja Diggs, an executive member of Black, Young & Educated, a youth activism nonprofit, Amber Thompson, founder of de-bias, an equity-focused monitoring and evaluation platform, and Dr. Noble Maseru, the Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion at University of Pittsburgh.

see SUMMIT — page 2



PETER BOETTGER | LAYOUT/MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Incline, an on-campus dining option located in the basement of the Student Union, was closed for a week while a pest issue was controlled. This Wednesday, the Incline reopened for service after student concerns and a student focus group with Parkhurst management.

EMMA POLEN
news editor

Following a week-long closure, Incline dining services are up-and-running again. On Jan. 17, Incline suddenly closed at 2 pm. A message from the FoodU app notified students immediately on Tuesday that their campus dining options would change that same day. "The Incline will be closed today at 2 pm until further notice. Please visit the Cinco location from 5 pm-10 pm for your fav Incline items," the FoodU message read. The closure occurred after an increase in pests over the weekend at the Incline, said university spokesman Gabe Welsch in an email. "The university closed the location so that our pest control company could do a more extensive thorough examination and treatment," Welsch said. The pest control companies that work with Duquesne frequent the food establishments on campus two to three times a week for "regular maintenance and inspection,"

according to Welsch. "In this case, the company identified that the increase in activity was not food-related but due to other sources where a pest had gained access to a food area. We are aggressively addressing the situation," Welsch said. Dead cockroaches were found in the main kitchen area of the Union, he said, and the solution to eliminate the pests was to eliminate, or "seal," possible access points. Some students expressed frustration at the closure. Incline food was served on the fifth floor of the Union, at the Cinco dining location, until the situation had been solved. Cinco's normal hours of operation continued, with a period of limited mobile ordering hours through the Transact Mobile Ordering app 4 to 6:30 pm Incline was offered at Cinco 4 pm to 10 pm Monday - Friday and 10 am to 10 pm Saturday - Sunday. "I miss the grilled cheese," senior Alex Barr said on Tuesday of this week. "I'm glad that they were able to accommodate in some capacity,"

Barr said, "but...I just want them to be back to normal." "I'm really not thrilled," junior Grace Reitz said. "If we're paying for this [meal plan], you should tell us what's going on even if it was a brief statement. We got no communication." Gina Sabol, junior, also complained about the lack of communication from the university about the incident at Incline. "This is not the first time they've not communicated changes with us," Sabol said. She had trouble with printing at Gumberg Library following Duquesne's total website redesign which was never communicated with students, before or after the total change to the website's format. Communication was constructive, however, when Duquesne auxiliary offices and Parkhurst dining took the "power to the people" and invited a group of Duquesne students to a first-ever student focus group on Monday to discuss on-campus dining options in the sixth-floor Union conference room. Following last week's events, Parkhurst management in atten-

dance spoke about their role in the health and safety of students eating on campus. "The health and safety is really important," said Nick Marcarelli, resident district manager of Parkhurst dining. In his position, Marcarelli oversees every step of dining operations, including maintaining healthy and safe facilities in Hogan dining hall. In Hogan, Marcarelli and his staff member Gayle Musulin walk through the facility to observe from food prep to presentation, he said. In specific allergy-free areas, the observation is even stricter. In Hogan's newest allergy-free zone, Inspired EATS, auditors come in even more regularly to assure that the food remains uncontaminated, said Amy Steedle, marketing for auxiliary services. With the panel on Monday, Marcarelli and the rest of Parkhurst dining hoped to hear about students' on-campus dining needs with actual students. "We're trying to listen, we're trying to get what you want," Marcarelli said.

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POLICE briefs

Tuesday, Jan. 17-

A student's car was struck by another vehicle while parked between the seventh and eighth levels of Locust Garage

Tuesday, Jan. 17-

A non-Duquesne-affiliated man was issued a Defiant Trespass Warning after being confronted at McCloskey where he was found intoxicated and loudly yelling profanities to onlookers

Saturday, Jan. 21-

An intoxicated student was transported to UPMC Mercy by ambulance and 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.

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COURTESY OF JEREMY BURWORTH

Auja Diggs, an executor member of Young, Black and Educated, speaks to the crowds at the Racial Justice Summit. Pictured (left to right) Tim Stevens, Auja Diggs, Amber Thompson, Noble Maseru.

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unique insights in to racial justice advocacy.

"Coming into social work, my background is in behavioral sociology and a master's in organizational development," Thompson said. "I understand the system. I understand the plugs in the system. But if I'm struggling, and I have an education, and I have support and I have resources. What is everyone else going through?"

After the keynote speakers finished giving their introductions, they led everyone in attendance in a roundtable discussion in which audience members could share their experiences and advice on equality.

In the second day of the RJS, 25 discussion group sessions were held on Saturday in the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary classrooms by various members of the community.

Each discussion was based on themes centered around the fight for equity for disenfranchised people.

Opening remarks on Saturday from Daeja Baker, lead summit organizer and coordinator, exemplified qualities of an equal society that are not yet apparent in our world.

"Equity is the right to go to work and be safe and not have to work 18-hours a day to feed your family," Baker said. "Equity is being able to have access to healthcare in the same way that our counterparts have access. Equity is having access to unions that protect you from unfair practices in the workplace. Equity is not having our neighborhoods patrolled by the police at five times the rate as other neighborhoods."

Workshops and wellness were also topics of discussion at the Saturday sessions. Events included

"Building Solidarity, Making History," "Capitalism Vs. Humanity Equals Racism" and "Putting Fair Housing Into Action."

"I thought it was interesting here, the connective experience," said Pitt student Natalie Davidson. "Of course with Black and Brown people, our experience with racial injustice is pretty known. As someone who looks like them, I am quite familiar with it, but it's nice to hear about adding our correlations between the different areas that we exist in."

A community resource room also offered opportunities for

event-goers to learn about local advocacy groups involved in promoting a future of equality.

Representatives from the City of Pittsburgh's Commission on Human Relations, Lawrenceville United, Young People in Recovery, Allies for Health and Wellbeing and Creative Reuse were in attendance. Trace Brewing, a brewers collaboration that offers a paid six-month-long program to women, BIPOC and LGBTQ+ individuals in the aspects of the brewing process in Bloomfield, was also available for interested visitors.

The six months of planning that were dedicated to this summit was apparent, as many diverse backgrounds were able to come together to work on equality and justice for all.

"We're like a grassroots community organizing for mutual aid," said Kevin Jarbo, RJS coordination lead. "We want to be able to bring all these different sorts of folks together and say, 'these are the resources that are out there, these are the things, and these are the people who are doing the work.'"

Those that would like to volunteer for the next Racial Justice Summit can sign up at <https://www.pittsburghracialjusticesummit.org/>.



COURTESY OF JEREMY BURNWORTH

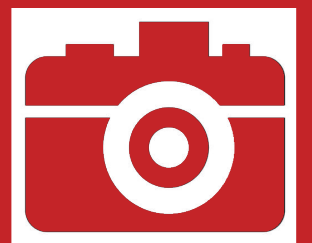
Pittsburghers gather at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in East Liberty to hear discussions about equality during the annual Racial Justice Summit.



Writers & Photographers
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hennel@duq.edu



Founders Week celebrates over 150 years of Spiritan tradition 3

ANDREW CUMMINGS
staff writer

Duquesne University will celebrate Founders Week from Monday, Jan. 30 through Friday, Feb. 3.

Founders Week has historically commemorated the founding of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh by the Spiritan priests.

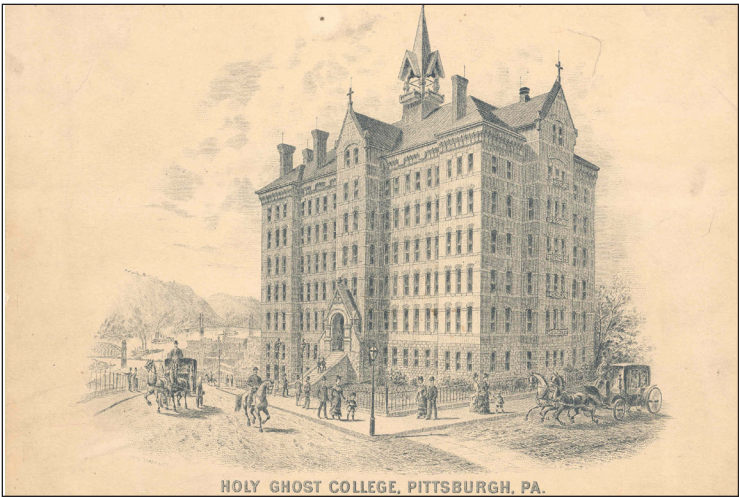
According to Luci-Jo DiMaggio, the director of Mission Animation at Duquesne, Founders Week “serves to celebrate our Catholic Spiritan roots as a university and to highlight ways in which we live out the Spiritan mission and in our campus community and beyond.”

The theme of Founders Week in 2023 is “Sharing our Light in the Spirit of Belonging.”

The week will include events such as a carnival in the Student Union with games, prizes and snacks.

“I’m...hype for the service fair event they’re doing,” said Tony Carbino, fifth-year biomedical engineering student. With a busy schedule himself, Carbino is excited to lead some of the Founders Week activities.

“I think it’s cool that Duquesne is giving us opportunities to explore our interests outside the



COURTESY OF GUMBERG LIBRARY ARCHIVES
An 1885 engraving shows the Spiritans' original Duquesne University, when it was still Holy Ghost College.

traditional school-average working job dynamic,” he said.

There will be a series of lunches throughout the week such as a Spiritan pedagogy lunch that will teach participants how to “contribute to an expanding sense of interconnectedness with students, campus, community, and world,” according to the official list of Founders Week activities on Duquesne’s website.

Discussants will include Jess Mann, Nicole Vilkoner and Rev. Fr. Bill Christy.

The Spiritan Friends Lunch

aims to explore Spiritan spirituality through storytelling, and will be led by Rev. Fr. John Fogarty. In addition, the Founders Week luncheon will feature Kathleen Roberts as she “shares her stories of her personal experiences and on the importance of creating light in the darkness.”

Other events include Agape Latte which seeks to facilitate student conversations about the intersection between faith and real life, a craft night where participants will create mason jar lights in accordance with

the “sharing our light” theme; a University Reception that seeks to “celebrate the amazing work done on campus” with “beer, wine, heavy appetizers and music;” a “Candlemas Celebration” where participants will “offer our intentions for 2023 on how we will each be a light in the darkness and place candles on Academic walk,” a concert featuring Duquesne music students and staff and Vespers, or evening prayer service, to end the week.

“I’m most looking forward to the Vespers ceremony on Friday,” Carbino said. “It’s been my favorite tradition at Duquesne because it makes me feel connected to our university community in a way I don’t often experience on the average day.”

According to DiMaggio, “This year the events highlight ways in which we can share the light we each have within us so that we can build a supportive and thriving community at Duquesne.”

Founders Week takes place during the week of Ven. Francis Libermann’s Feast Day on Feb. 2. Libermann is known as the “second founder” of the Spiritans and is an influential figure in the Spiritan organization, DiMaggio said.

Bugs on the run: Duquesne reopens dining facilities

from BUGS— page 1

Marcarelli has been overseeing the dining operations at Duquesne for less than a year since he took over as resident district manager September.

“We’ve been here a short time, but we really want to make this program great. And we can’t do it without you,” Marcarelli told students at the focus group.

Will Trainor, fourth-year environmental science student, joined the student panel on Monday with Parkhurst.

Following the Incline’s reopening, Trainor was concerned about the lingering effects that

extermination chemicals might have in the Incline dining area. However, he was pleased with how dining services handled the situation and voiced his thoughts at the student focus group.

“[The focus group] did help reinforce that knowledge that Parkhurst really tries its best to work with/for students. Since the Incline closed last week, my thoughts haven’t really changed. I still think it’s good food and great people who work there,” he said in an email after the student panel.

Nathan Gierczynski, junior pre-law student and SGA vice



EMMA POLEN | NEWS EDITOR
Austen Peterson (left) and Ryan Hanshaw (right) eat an Incline at Cinco dinner on the fifth floor of the Union while Incline was still closed.

president of Student Life, appreciated the chance to share his own opinions with dining staff.

“Monday’s focus group strengthened my view that the Parkhurst team is dedicated to providing the best dining experience possible,” he said.

While discussing how to improve Campus Market offerings to students, Marcarelli expressed an interest in hearing about these suggestions directly from students.

“We don’t know everything,” Marcarelli said. “We want you to be our partners in that, and that will help build community.”

Marcarelli hopes that he can meet with students for more focus groups in the future.

Alex Iracheta, director of retail, outlined the ways that students could reach out with comments and suggestions outside

of the in-person student panels.

“We do have a lot of avenues for feedback,” he said. Specifically, the self-checkout kiosks that were introduced in the various express markets across campus have a QR code that allows students to share directly with dining services.

Both social media and dining@duq.edu are also outlets for student feedback, Iracheta said.

“We do look at [student comments] and respond to those,” Iracheta assured students at the focus group.

Students can once again enjoy their favorites at Incline, the snack pack station and Duq Station Salads & Subs, which are back to their normal hours of operation: 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Feedback is also available on the FoodU app under each listed dining option.



PETER BOETTGER | LAYOUT/MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

While Incline was closed, students had the option to order chips with their meal, a substitute for the normal french fries option, from Incline at Cinco.

Founders Week Activities

Monday, Jan. 30-

Student Union Carnival

11 am - 1 pm

Student Union Floor 2-3

Spiritans' Pedagogy Lunch

12:15 pm - 2 pm

Union Africa Room

Candlelight Yoga

12 pm - 1 pm

Power Center Ballroom

Tuesday, Jan. 31-

Spiritans' Friends Lunch

12 pm - 1 pm

Union Africa Room

Be the Change:

Post Graduate Opportunities Fair

3 pm - 5 pm

Union Africa Room

Creating Belonging through Sharing our Stories Sacred Conversations on Race

9 pm - 10 pm

Towers Multipurpose Room

Wednesday, Feb. 1-

Founders Week Luncheon

12 pm - 1 pm

Union Africa Room

Evening of Flights Beer Tasting Fundraiser for the Missions

4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Union Africa Room

Agape Latte

7 pm - 8 pm

Chapel of the Holy Spirit

Sharing Our Light Craft Night

9 pm - 10 pm

Union Nite Spot

Thursday, Feb. 2-

Feast Day Mass

12 pm - 1 pm

Chapel of the Holy Spirit

Feast Day Give Away

1 pm - 2 pm

Union, Floor 2 Atrium

University Reception

4 pm - 5:30 pm

Union Africa Room

Founders Week Special Dinner

4 pm - 7:30 pm

Hogan Dining Hall

A Light in Darkness: Candlemas Celebration

5:45 pm - 6:45 pm

A-Walk in front of Mellon

Sound & Light Afar Concert

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Union Africa Room

Friday, Feb. 3-

Vespers and Reception

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Trinity Hall

(RSVP required)

MBB orders up home victory, snaps skid

LUKE HENNE
editor-in-chief

The Duquesne men's basketball team erased a 9-point halftime deficit en route to defeating Loyola of Chicago 72-58 at UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse Wednesday night.

The Dukes trailed the Ramblers 40-31 at the break, but used a 41-18 second half to earn the double-digit victory, the

and a drink to be delivered, prompting an abrupt stoppage in play.

"Only at Duquesne can a guy deliver food on the court during the game," Duquesne Head Coach Keith Dambrot said.

Dambrot added that he didn't notice the incident when it happened.

"I just saw the video after the game," Dambrot said. "Our guys were dying laughing in [the locker room]. Guy had a

"I know I was on the court because I had people texting me," Retroff said. "I checked my phone and I had a bunch of people text me about it because I was in the clip, but I didn't notice it in the game at all. I'll have to rewatch the footage and see what he could've done better."

As for the game, the Ramblers led by as many as 11 points in the first half. The Dukes' victory marked the 20th win under Dambrot in which the team erased a double-digit deficit.

"I give our guys a lot of credit because it was a rough first half," Dambrot said, "but we did a great job defensively in the second half, and then made enough plays when it really mattered to win the game."

Retroff said that, coming out of the locker room for the second half, the team knew they just needed "to get the offense going a little more."

"In the first half, we had stretches of really good defensive play, but the offense stagnated a little bit," Retroff said. "It was mainly about the offensive end and just to keep it up on defense, and I think we did a good job at the beginning of the second half ... We chipped away at that lead and got our confidence up on offense, and were able to get it done."

Loyola of Chicago did not score its first points of the second half until the 13:05 mark. Duquesne paired strong defense with a 10-0 scoring run to begin the second half to secure the win and snap a two-game skid.

Dambrot said that the key to the victory came in the aforementioned stretch that opened the second half.

"Had it gone the other direction, we lose," Dambrot said. "Had the game gone from [9-point deficit] to 12 or 14, then

that's an issue. But, instead, we hit the 3 immediately, so we're right in it. That changed the mental flow of the game."

Although Retroff only played 14 minutes in the game, Dambrot praised his fifth-year forward's performance, saying that there's "no better person in the world" than him.

"I know that sounds cliché-ish, so whatever, but he's an unreal human being," Dambrot said. "Everybody in the locker room loves him, regardless of whether they play the same position, freshman, sophomore, old. He's a guy that's hard not to like."

"So when he plays well, you feel good about it, because guys like him deserve to play well. They come to work every day. They put their work in. They're great teammates. I can't say enough good things about him. If he doesn't exemplify what a top-flight student-athlete is, then I can't think of anybody that could be better than him."

Philip Alston, who transferred to Loyola of Chicago from nearby California University of Pennsylvania (Division II) prior to this season, had a game-high 25 points.

Dae Dae Grant and Jimmy Clark III both scored a team-high-tying 13 points for Duquesne, while Rodney Gunn Jr. (12 points) and Tevin Brewer (10 points) also scored in double figures.

The Dukes will return to action on the road Saturday, when they take on UMass.

The Minutemen were the only Atlantic 10 Conference team that lost to Duquesne last season.

UMass defeated Richmond Wednesday night. The Minutemen have not won back-to-back games since beating Harvard (Dec. 2) and Albany (Dec. 5).



PETER BOETTGER | LAYOUT/MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Duquesne's Austin Retroff completes a dunk in the Dukes' 72-58 victory over Loyola of Chicago at UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse Wednesday night. Retroff had 8 points and five rebounds in the win.

team's first win since defeating Saint Joseph's Jan. 11.

One of the game's biggest stories was not game-related. With 16:10 remaining in the game, a food delivery person walked onto the court with a beverage

job to do. He did his job well."

Duquesne forward Austin Retroff, who had 8 points and a team-high-tying five rebounds in the win, was in the action when it happened. However, he didn't see it either.

WBB falls to Davidson, defeats Dayton

BENJAMIN GOTTSCHALK
staff writer

The Duquesne women's basketball team went 1-1 in two contests this week, falling at home to Davidson on Sunday afternoon before winning on the road against Dayton Wednesday night.

Tess Myers hit six 3-pointers and shot 50% from behind the arc, but it wasn't enough for the Dukes to survive the Wildcats' offense in a 66-65 loss Sunday.

Duquesne fell behind early, but was able to go on a run toward the end of the first quarter to take the lead. The Dukes started off 0-for-4 from behind the arc, but hit three 3-pointers to close the first quarter, including a buzzer-beating shot from Tess Myers.

"I knew we had to get a stop, so my hands were right there, and I got the ball," Duquesne guard Megan McConnell said. "I dribbled all the way down, and I heard Tess say, 'Right here. Right here,' so I just pitched it to her, and she hit a huge shot, and it got everyone going. This game was full of swings, and Davidson had their fair share of them, but that was ours."

That Duquesne lead didn't last long, as Davidson would use the second quarter to not only regain the lead, but to go up by double digits (41-31) at halftime. Davidson's Issy

Morgan was a key contributor to that lead, as 16 of her 20 points came in the first half.

"We didn't expect her to do that, and she played really well," said Duquesne Head Coach Dan Burt. "She made some big shots and, again, mental breakdowns on our end. You have to give the kid credit. She had a very good half."

The Dukes trailed for the entirety of the third quarter, but managed to cut the lead to just 4 points heading into the fourth quarter.

With 3:06 remaining in the game, the Dukes regained the lead in what was the beginning of a nail-biting finish. Myers hit a 3-pointer to put Duquesne up 59-56, and Davidson's Maddie Plank answered with a 3-pointer of her own to tie it at 59 with 2:37. Myers would then hit another shot from beyond the arc to put Duquesne up 62-59 with 1:53 to go.

Plank cut Davidson's lead to 1 with a made layup with 1:12 to go, and hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with a hand in her face to put the Wildcats up 64-62 with 16 seconds remaining.

With the game on the line, Duquesne looked to who else but Myers. She ran to the corner, gathered and sunk a 3-pointer while also getting fouled. She could not convert on the 4-point play, but her shot gave Duquesne a 65-64 edge with 8 seconds in the game.

"We have been in this position before,

we're a veteran team," McConnell said. "Tess was able to knock down a huge shot. We have run that play a couple of times before in close games, and we have been able to get it."

At the other end of the court Elle Sutphin, who leads the Wildcats in both points per game and rebounds per game, was fouled and went to the free-throw line. She hit both free throws to put the Wildcats back up by 1 point with 2 seconds left to go.

The Dukes inbounded it to Ayanna Townsend. She backed down her defender and took a turn-around jump shot, but it rimmed out as the buzzer sounded, handing Duquesne just its second home loss of the season.

While a loss like that is a hard one to forget, Burt said, "We'll be prepared when we play on Wednesday."

"Obviously, we can't dwell on it too much," Myers said. "But we have to take away our mistakes, learn from them and focus on the practices going forward."

"This one definitely hurt," McConnell said. "We will take more time for this one because it was a winnable game. We needed to win that at home."

In Wednesday's contest, the Dukes erased a 19-point deficit, defeating Dayton 87-79 at UD Arena. Duquesne trailed 30-16 at the end of the first quarter and 39-20 with 6:41 to go,

but began chipping away at the Flyers' lead.

From that point forward, Duquesne used a 19-3 run to cut Dayton's deficit to 3 (42-39) heading into the locker room.

After Dayton hit a jumper to go up 46-41 with 8:38 to go in the third quarter, a 12-0 run from the Dukes put them up 53-46, and they never looked back. The Flyers never came any closer than 4 points down for the rest of the game.

Myers led all scorers with 23 points, while McConnell added 16 of her own.

The Dukes will be back in action Sunday afternoon, when they host UMass.



PETER BOETTGER | LAYOUT/MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Duquesne's Tess Myers hits a go-ahead 3-pointer in a back-and-forth loss on Sunday.

Steelers ought to follow Bengals' blueprint

LUKE HENNE
editor-in-chief

For years, the Cincinnati Bengals were a doormat of the AFC North. Come 2020, even the Cleveland Browns looked like they had a brighter future than the Bengals.

Seemingly all that Cincinnati had was Joe Burrow, its quarterback who was drafted No. 1 overall in the 2020 NFL Draft. Just 10 games into his professional career, Burrow was out with a torn ACL and MCL in his left knee.

With an injury that isn't always the easiest to recover from, it looked as if the Bengals could be in jeopardy of another draft failure.

However, Burrow swiftly recovered and

gers' run to an undefeated season and a national championship in 2019.

The "Bayou Bengals" of Baton Rouge, La., reunited in Cincinnati. The front office took a risk, and its paid dividends.

As a result of the successful gamble, Cincinnati is one win away from reaching its second-consecutive Super Bowl.

For years, the Bengals were the Steelers' little brother. Now, however, it's time for Pittsburgh to take a page from Cincinnati's playbook.

With quarterback Kenny Pickett having a year of NFL development now under his belt, the Steelers' next step should be to surround him with a target he's already comfortable with.

He formed a dynamic duo with fellow

Pickett-Addison draws parallels to the connection between Burrow and Chase. A duo formed in college. The quarterback getting a year under his belt at the professional level before reuniting with a signature wide receiver.

It's not like Pickett is the only one in town familiar with Addison. The Steelers and Pitt share a practice facility, where Steelers Head Coach Mike Tomlin was witness to Addison's talents before he abruptly decided to transfer to USC following the 2021 season.

After spending the 2022 campaign with the Trojans playing alongside Heisman-winning quarterback Caleb Williams, Addison is now projected to be a first-round pick in the 2023 NFL Draft.

If you're truly set on developing Pickett as the franchise's top quarterback for the foreseeable future — which was implied by using a first-round pick on him in the 2022 NFL Draft — get him some targets that he's already comfortable with.

It's done wonders for the Steelers' division rival. During the 2021 postseason, Chase grabbed 25 of Burrow's passes for 368 yards and a touchdown. In two games so far this postseason, Chase has 14 catches for 145 yards and two touchdowns.

In a 2021 season in which the Bengals weren't expected to have much success — particularly after all three AFC North teams but them made the playoffs in 2020 — Cincinnati fell just one win shy of earning the franchise's first-ever Super Bowl title.

In 2022, with expectations surrounding the team for the first time in a long time, people raised doubt after the team started 0-2, 2-3 and 4-4. The Bengals have erased all that doubt, having won 10 games in a row (eight regular season, two in postseason) following an Oct. 31 loss to the Browns.

The Bengals are legitimate, and the chemistry between Burrow and Chase is a major reason why.

Don't just look at Cincinnati. Across the state in Philadelphia, Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts and wide receiver DeVonta Smith went from being teammates at Alabama to forming a successful pairing of their own at the NFL level.

Familiarity breeds comfort. One of the best ways to get Pickett comfortable as he continues to develop into the quarterback the Steelers hope he can be would be to draft someone that he's got preexisting

chemistry with.

The Steelers tried something somewhat similar before. In the 2018 NFL Draft, the team selected both quarterback Mason Rudolph and wide receiver James Washington, who were teammates at Oklahoma State.

Rudolph, the team's third-string quarterback in 2022, has had just one prolonged period of playing time, which came when Ben Roethlisberger was hurt in 2019. Washington is no longer in Pittsburgh.

Did that draft strategy work? No.

However, this one feels different. Neither Rudolph nor Washington were never considered to be integral parts of the Steelers' starting offense.

Pickett feels like the No. 1 quarterback moving forward, and it would behoove the front office to draft someone like Addison.

It's done wonders for the team in the next state over.

While the Bengals haven't been a blueprint for success for a long time prior to 2021, the Steelers would be wise to take a look at what the Burrow-Chase connection has brought to Cincinnati.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Led by Burrow and Chase, the 2021 Bengals appeared in a Super Bowl for the first time since 1988.

made it back in time for the 2021 campaign. Even with Tee Higgins and Tyler Boyd slotted in as talented wide receivers for Burrow to throw to, Cincinnati took a risk and selected Ja'Marr Chase with the No. 5 pick in the 2021 NFL Draft.

It was a pick that was heavily scrutinized, as many believed that the team should've drafted offensive linemen, particularly after missed blocking was a source of Burrow's injury.

However, Burrow and Chase had formed an unstoppable connection during their collegiate careers at LSU. Chase caught 84 passes for 1,780 yards and 20 touchdowns from Burrow during the Ti-

rookie George Pickens in 2022, but now it's time for the Steelers to bring in Pickett's old college connection from their time together at Pitt: wide receiver Jordan Addison.

The tandem began to gel during Addison's freshman year with the Panthers in 2020, but 2021 saw the duo take Pitt to a place it hadn't been in a long time.

Pickett threw for 4,319 yards and 42 touchdowns, while Addison snagged 100 passes for 1,593 yards and 17 touchdowns. Those two helped the Panthers to their first-ever Atlantic Coast Conference championship, as well as the program's first season with 11 wins since 1981.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Kenny Pickett formed a connection with Jordan Addison during their time together at Pitt.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Quarterback Joe Burrow has turned the Cincinnati Bengals into an annual Super Bowl contender.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Before being drafted by Cincinnati, wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase was a standout in college at LSU.

Duquesne celebrates the Year of the Rabbit

NICHOLAS ZOTOS
social media/ads manager

The most common Chinese New Year greeting is Xīnnián hǎo (新年好), which roughly translates to “New Year Goodness.” Here at Duquesne, students had the opportunity for their own celebration full of goodness for the Lunar New Year.

On Jan. 19, the Asian Student Association (ASA) hosted a celebration to usher in the start of the lunar new year. The festivities included a traditional Chinese dragon dance, karaoke, Asian cuisine and various cultural games.

This event was open to the entire student population, and many individuals from different cultural backgrounds attended.

“I thought this event was super informative. While I am not a member of ASA, I heard everyone was having a good time, and I left another event to come to this one. I saw the festivities and everyone looked so excited,” said Samiya Henry, a physics and engineering major.

Elisha Schoneck, a sophomore physical therapy major and member of ASA, is glad she joined ASA to find new friends.

“I am involved with many diversity clubs at Duquesne. This is one of my favorites due to my eth-

nicity. I get to meet people with the same experiences as me. I also get to meet people with different opinions,” she said.

Many individuals from other organizations were gathered to enjoy the food and learn about another culture. The event packed the Union Ballroom with over 60 people in attendance.

“It was really nice to participate and learn about Chinese New Year. This event was super unique, and I am really glad I attended,” Henry said.

Perhaps one of the most unique events of the celebration was the lion dance. Also known as a “stalk” in Chinese culture, this event was performed by members of Steel Dragon Kung Fu, a kung fu and martial arts studio based in Pittsburgh.

The dance featured two performers in a dragon costume performing a series of uniquely choreographed movements to celebrate the new year.

This year, the lunar new year marks the beginning of the year of the rabbit.

Chris Young, a leader and the performers’ shifu at Steel City Kung Fu, explained more about the dance his organization performed at the ASA club celebration.

“Each Chinese new year is unique and special in terms of the



NICHOLAS ZOTOS | SOCIAL MEDIA/ADS MANAGER

The executive board for the Asian Student Association celebrated another lunar new year at Duquesne.

animal it depicts. Each lion dance is also unique and tells its own story. In this particular dance, the dragon is helping the rabbits share the prosperity of the new year to others,” Young said.

Members of ASA and new students in attendance crowded around the performers to watch the dance. As part of the routine, performers usually throw gifts from the mouth of the dragon, a movement that depicts the sharing of prosperity.

“Many people in China will crowd around the dragon hoping to receive some gifts, but there is so much more to Chinese New Year than gifts. This event is about a new beginning. In our culture, you give elders tea and they usually give you a red envelope with money, but, in reality this symbolizes longevity and a cohesive family,” Young said.

The students also engaged in cultural games hosted by members of the ASA. The festivities included Cham Cham Cham and flag trivia. By participating in the games, students had the opportunity to win prizes, like plush rabbits.

The celebration wouldn’t be complete without Asian cuisine. The ASA served a variety of dishes consisting of rice, chicken and steamed vegetables.

The night served as a unique way for students to bond and learn more about another culture.

Asian Student Association members extend their pride in culture and on-campus change through their organization.

“This event introduces our culture to Duquesne’s student body. I have been in the club since 2020, and when I started, I really wanted to expand this club and continue to enhance our recognition on campus. This event is one of the ways we are continuing to do that,” said Roxanne Kim, psychology major and president of ASA.

Kim is one of the ASA members looking to make a difference on campus. She plans on organizing similar events with the help of the executive board in the future.

Any individuals who are interested in joining the Asian Student Association can request to do so through their Campus Link page. Individuals do not need to be of Asian descent to join.

The lunar new year event concluded with games, karaoke and a raffle for prizes.

“People seemed to have enjoyed themselves. This was a great event and a safe place for all. The games were fun. Ultimately, I liked the event and so did my friends,” Schoneck said.



NICHOLAS ZOTOS | SOCIAL MEDIA/ADS MANAGER

The Chinese New Year celebration was open to all students wishing to join in the festivities.

CAMPUS
EVENTS

"MUD"
Jan. 25-28 @ 8 p.m.
Jan. 29 @ 2 p.m.

Join the Red Masquers in Genesis Theater for their newest production.

Donuts with the President
Jan. 26

President Gormley will be giving out free donuts 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in Hogan and 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. in the Union Atrium.

Make Your Own Stress Ball
Jan. 29 @ 9 p.m.

Join the Center for Student Involvement in the NiteSpot to create some stress relief! Supplies limited.

Student Union Carnival
Jan. 30 @ 11 a.m.

Chase off the Monday blues with carnival games, prizes and snacks in the Student Union!

EMILY'S
EPIPHANIES

Good Grief

It is said that there are five stages of grief: denial, bargaining, anger, sadness and acceptance. However, there is no "right" way to navigate through such a complicated and powerful emotion and each person will process those feelings in a way that is unique to them.

Working through the rollercoaster of emotions that are inevitably tied to grief can be overwhelming and all-consuming at first, but it's important to feel all of them and remember that the hurt you are feeling now has grown out of love.

Leave space for yourself to work through whatever you're feeling and give yourself time to heal. The people who love you will be there when you're ready and those that have passed will feel your love and compassion from wherever comes after.

Try to find comfort knowing that they are at peace. Hold on to all of the memories that you shared, and let your loved ones live on through you and the stories you tell in honor of them.

Please continue to love deeply and don't forget to be kind to yourself.
— Emily Fritz

Aquarius ♒

That was not on my 2023 Bingo card...

Pisces ♓

That's a qualm to take up with the Republic of Ireland

Aries ♈

We were two different versions of neuro-spicy

Taurus ♉

Kneecap.
Underbite.
Frog boy.

Gemini ♊

Why can't we talk about the dog?
Is John Wick a dog??

Cancer ♋

Oh God.
A whole raw potato. Two bites.
...one if they're feeling frisky.

Leo ♌

You kinda look like Jennifer Connelly

Virgo ♍

she's a canoe...a canoe that thinks you're kinda cute

Libra ♎

Is Halloweentown in the Upside Down?

Scorpio ♏

I want to watch over Facebook Live only...unless the food is good

Sagittarius ♐

Sweet sentiment, yucky yucky man.

Capricorn ♑

You lost an ear?
I think I might have an extra

Måneskin pushes boundaries with new album

ANDY KAMIS
staff writer

Put your loving hand out! The Italian glam-rock band, Måneskin, is back with 17 new tracks after debuting their latest album — "Rush!" — on Friday. This is Måneskin's third album release since the band formed in 2016 with critically-acclaimed reviews already sprouting up across the world.

Common for the band, "Rush!" deals with real worldwide issues, but this time Måneskin uses various experimental techniques to emphasize their intentions. Many of the songs are lyric-focused as well, which allows the songs to change in intensity to match the meaning of the words.

Lyrics taken from "Rush!"'s opening song, "OWN MY MIND," introduced fans to some of the album's major themes. "Well, I don't know your secrets, I'm no visionary. Yeah, I don't know your story, but I like what I see," sang lead singer Damiano David. This song revitalized every typical aspect of a Måneskin track, but also differed from previous songs in some key areas, such as a more moderate use of sounds.

The next track on the album was "GOSSIP," which features the famous guitarist, Tom Morello. Under Spotify's Storyline feature, Måneskin explained that this song grapples with the so-

cietal demand of conformity, in regards to "aesthetic and behavioral standards." Måneskin's lead guitarist, Thomas Raggi, challenged prominent rock bands like Arctic Monkeys in this song with instant-hit rock-and-roll riffs, followed by more iconic vocals from David.

"TIMEZONE" compares very differently to "Rush!"'s other tracks, consisting of a much slower tempo and somber melody. David sang about the band's own experience again; this time expressing their emotions during their Europe tour and the pain caused by constantly being away from their loved ones. Their longing to reunite with their family and friends is exemplified in the lyrics.

"Only thing that keeps us apart is seven thousand miles, running like a mad dog...Tomorrow I got another plane, I'm not gonna take it...Instead, I'm gonna fly straight to you." The guitar layering sounds like it is straight out of a Red Hot Chili Peppers song, but it still stands firm on its own — indicating that it's only a matter of time before it becomes another international hit.

"BABY SAID" features subtle changes in rhythm, unique riffs and a beat drop among some of the most catchy and interesting lyrics in the whole album. This is similar to "GASOLINE," which is composed of the same elements,

used to make a stand against war through a growing crescendo of vitality. Irony to the song's purpose, it feels like Måneskin is raising their own army in this one!

Perhaps one of the most interesting tracks in the album is "FEEL." Måneskin claimed that the lyrics are used as the "real instrument" in this song and that none of the words hold meaning. Undeniably, this is demonstrated in their lyrics, "Blue jeans and leather, never looked that hot before. Don't you mind if I just stay? Goodbye." The song even opens with 40 consecutive repetitions of the word "la." Even though this track does not have any overarching implications, it is nonetheless just as entertaining as the rest.

"DON'T WANT TO SLEEP," along with "MARK CHAPMAN" and "LA FINE" are all very expeditious in nature and each make a strong mark as traditional "dance songs." "MARK CHAPMAN" is the album's first song written in Italian, which is symbolic and significant to the band members.

"Using the Italian language is such an important part of us, the essence of our work and our beginnings," Måneskin states under Spotify's Storyline feature.

The song's beats per minute (BPM) is 178, making it the fastest song Måneskin has recorded so far. Slowing things down again,

"IL DONO DELLA VITA," is intended to encourage listeners to enjoy the small parts that make up their lives.

On Spotify, Måneskin stated that it is an "exaltation of joy and awareness of what you have." This is a passionate piece that evokes a lot of emotions and is fulfilled with inspiration. It compares to another slow song, titled "IF NOT FOR YOU," which emulates classic love songs and exercises a vital use of string instruments.

The last remaining tracks, "MAMMAMIA," "SUPERMODEL" and "THE LONELIEST," were first released as singles prior to "Rush!"'s debut. All three of

them became international hits in a short period of time and perfectly tie in with the rest of the album and bring it to its close.

Whereas "MAMMAMIA" and "SUPERMODEL" are less serious songs that share the stories of fictional characters, "THE LONELIEST" tells its listeners how to say farewell to something — or someone — that they love.

"Rush!" is bursting with new remarkable music that has enough potential to top the charts and redefine how the world views modern rock-and-roll. Måneskin has done it again! My personal rating: four-and-a-half stars.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

After finishing their European tour last summer, Måneskin resurfaced with a strong album debut.

Disney misses mark with newest animated original

EMILY FRITZ
a&e editor

In celebration of The Walt Disney Company's 100th year in existence, Walt Disney Studios has continued to reimagine classic tales like "The Little Mermaid," which sets to debut as a live-action remake this spring, while also producing original films like "Elemental."

The newest release for Disney's "100 Years of Wonder" celebration was "Strange World," starring Jaboukie Young-White, Jake Gyllenhaal and Dennis Quaid.

The plot of the movie follows three generations of men, all hoping to cultivate a healthy father-son relationship where they can share their passions.

As the trope goes, each son in the lineage discovers their own passion and rebels over their desire for self-expression and a break from the looming legacy that their father's are trying to push onto them. All the while, three men are aiding their isolated town through an energy cri-

sis by exploring an underground world filled with unclassified invertebrate organisms.

After a major box office failure, the film was delivered silently to Disney+, with little hype or marketing to encourage audiences to become new subscribers. Admittedly, the plot of the movie lacked the depth that Disney seemed to be attempting.

A similar film, "Turning Red," focused on the coming-of-age of young women mixed with the generational trauma usually found in mother-daughter relationships. While that film was also received with mixed reviews for tackling controversial topics for family films, like pre-teen puberty, it stuck the landing for emotional vulnerability and meaningful change. Though "Strange World" hoped to fill the same role for young men, the plot felt underdeveloped and rushed.

The film has received praise for diversity and representation, as many of the characters belonged to the differently abled community, a multitude of mi-

nority groups or the LGBTQ+ community. The main character, Ethan (Jaboukie Young-White), expressed an interest in one of his friends, Diazo, but their same-sex romance went largely unexplored.

More conservative viewers took issue with the gay representation. When in reality, it felt like a cheap effort to be inclusive. LGBTQ+ characters and romances deserve to be seen and their stories deserve to be told. While credit is due to Disney for putting an LGBTQ+ character (who was portrayed by an LGBTQ+ actor) in the spotlight, criticism is also deserved for allowing this media breakthrough to be pushed to the side as a minor detail. Perhaps if the main plot were more effective, it wouldn't feel like such an out-of-place detail.

Other complaints pulled from the title. The "strange world" that they explored failed to deliver. Although the setting was colorful and bright, the underlying themes of environmental harmony went largely unheard from the

majority of the movie, which was exceptionally frustrating.

Moreso, while Disney is usually applauded for their efforts to reduce their carbon footprint during the ongoing climate crisis, there is still an undeniable irony when large corporations include messaging about being greener on an individual level.

The overarching conflict between the town of Avalonia and the strange world was your average man versus nature. **[SPOILER]** While the small community had built their lives around what appeared to be a naturally occurring and renewable energy source, it turned out to be a parasitic disease that was attacking their natural environment.

While the messaging was well-intentioned, this plotline also needed more development and tension. When a way of life is facing undeniable but impactful change, it is almost always met with resistance. The resolution of the movie was simple and understated, with no real antagonist. The peaceful change of heart was

appreciated but was largely unrealistic.

Lastly, the film attempted to draw inspiration from the "Strange Worlds" comics of the 1950s with scattered 2D animations and overexaggerated scene transitions.

Because the original comics have fallen victim to their age, the inspirations were not intuitively clear for audiences but might've been an attempt to attract older viewers.

Overall, this movie had a lot of potential but ended up being a flop. Had the movie been longer, it may have been able to pull together its loose ends and give more substance to its viewers. "Strange World" had a lot of good ideas and good intentions, but couldn't successfully assert any of them.

The ratings for this movie were all over the place: Rotten Tomatoes gave it a 72%, IMDB gave it a 5.6 out of 10 and it barely scraped by with 2.5 stars on Google Reviews. Disappointed, I give it three out of five stars.

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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"If you want to
lift yourself up,
lift up someone
else."

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BENJAMIN CRAWFORD | STAFF COMIC ARTIST

We need accountability, not militarization of the police

The militarization of the police force is closer to Pittsburgh than you think.

This past weekend, three Pittsburghers were arrested during a riot in Atlanta and charged with domestic terrorism, arson in the first degree, criminal damage in the second degree and interference with government property, according to police.

They were protesting an 85-acre, \$90 million training facility that is being referred to as "Cop City." This comes days after the police fatally shot 26-year-old activist Manuel Esteban Paez Terán, who police said shot first and wounded an officer.

This is one of those events that requires a lot of unpacking and nuance, but the talking points have been centered around the same stale arguments to feed the always sensationalized hunger of divided politics.

The militarization of police is a run-away train that is headed full steam to violently crash into American freedoms, all while being cheered on by a growing segment of the population.

It has been my experience that bringing up criticism about the police is met with a quick and staunch resistance often accompanied by some anecdote on some loose relation to or affiliation with someone in law enforcement.

It's exhausting.

When did respecting or supporting a group mean the void of accountability? I know we have become accustomed to swimming in the pool of male toxicity, but this blind allegiance to a group of people is dangerous.

It's especially dangerous when that group of people have a lot of guns.

And we're buying them more. Along with tanks.

There are some hard truths about the police. It's time to recognize that law-enforcement has not been as efficient as efficient as the public may believe. This has led to a growing distrust from communities.

Police do not have to be good at their jobs because we the public, don't require them to.

They don't solve crimes, according to Shima Baughman,

professor of criminal law at the University of Utah and the author of the 2020 academic study titled, "How Effective Are Police? The Problem of Clearance Rates and Criminal Accountability." She found that about 11% of all serious crimes result in an arrest and about 2% end in a conviction.

"What I call the 'criminal accountability' rate – is very low," Baughman wrote in the study.

Police are not obligated to protect the public.



ZACH PETROFF
opinions editor

In *Warren v. District of Columbia*, the D.C. Court of Appeals held that police have "general public duty" but otherwise "no specific legal duty exists."

A theme the courts have upheld the past three decades.

The true obligation of law enforcement is to protect property. This is how they operate. You can wear all the "blue lives matter" paraphernalia you want, but when push comes to shove, the police department's priority historically has been to protect the property of the elite.

They are not required to report their data to the FBI. There are massive holes in the informational flow of what occurs at the local police station and the national level. This has been a continuing

complaint from heads of the FBI.

"It is unacceptable that *The Washington Post* and *The Guardian* newspaper from the U.K. are becoming the lead source of information about violent encounters between police and civilians," James Comey, former director of the FBI, said in 2015.

A lack of transparency goes hand-in-hand with a lack of accountability.

The idea of training our police to essentially be better at violence can only create a state that is ruled by fear. The use of modern war weapons and equipment to monitor our communities is a dangerous precedent that mirrors occupation usually found in developing nations.

The encouragement along with the mindset that is accompanied with the militarization promotes an eagerness for violence. Infantry military personnel are not trained in crisis management, they are not trained to use warning shots, instead they are trained to put threats down as quickly and efficiently as possible.

If it sounds like I have disdain for the police, that is not my intention. The police deserve more than lip-service or blind allegiance. Social media posts do not stop bullets. To truly protect those that decided to pick up a badge for the betterment of our community, we need to hold them to a much higher standard along with providing them the proper support in a changing world.

Giving police more guns and higher budgets is not going to protect them from violence or outrage from our communities. The lack of standards, diversity, physical fitness requirements, continuing training and the integration of social worker and trained psychological professionals are leaving those in blue stranded.

We already put too much on the often under-trained police plate. They are forced to wear many hats while being both under paid and overworked.

Our police and our communities deserve better and that happens when we prioritize accountability over militarization.

staff editorial

The candy crush is now over

When we think of an M&M, we can say it's a candy, a chocolate, a snack or a dessert.

We don't tend to think of their spokescandies or characters, we just buy it because of how it tastes.

But, if there are people refusing to buy them because of their spokescandies, there's no need for worry anymore since they've now replaced the colorful faces with actor and SNL cast member, Maya Rudolph.

Apparently, this country can't handle what a little colorful piece of candy looks like as a cartoon character.

They can't handle it to a point where the company needed to make an entirely new character, one that's human.

The candy has been known for their cute round faces many seemingly loved for years now. They have been the stars of commercials for years now.

The controversy started when the company decided it was time for a rebranding which meant getting rid of high-heeled boots and making legs shorter for the green M&M.

This sparked all sorts of disputes which even led to people asking for the "sexy" green M&M back.

What caused even more retaliation was the addition of a new purple lady m&m which was originally formed to make the spokescandies more inclusive.

But little did the company know that those moves would eventually lead to getting rid of each and every character all together, for now at least.

Who are we to spark such controversy over a candy?

All M&M was trying to do with the addition of the purple M&M was make the branding more inclusive for International Women's Day.

But, somehow, even that announcement fell straight to the dirt.

With comments saying that she's obese, even though she's a peanut M&M, Twitter feeds grew wild with opinions.

Many are blaming Tucker Carlson's news segment where he shot at the character by calling her plus-size and a lesbian.

Once again, she's simply a character and a piece of candy. Why are we fighting over this?

Because we have nothing better to do, right?

Safeguarding our secrets for our seniors

ZACH PETROFF
opinions editor

What do Hillary Clinton, Joe Biden and Donald Trump have in common?

And no, this isn't the set-up of a corny joke, but the similarities could be interchangeable with a punchline.

While much has been discussed about these three political juggernauts, at a quick glance it seems these figures share few similarities. Earlier this month it was discovered that Biden joined the former president and former Secretary of State with the mishandling of classified documents.

While the circumstances were different, the sin remains the same.

Prominent people in power were negligent in how they handled confidential government information. These three put the country at risk by not adhering to the precautions set in place to avoid vital information falling into the hands of our country's adversaries.

The political coverage of this mishandling of private information has been, at the very least, exhausting.

Who could forget the investigations of Hillary Clinton's email? It was not that long ago that Michael Flynn, the former National

security advisor, took the stage at the 2016 Republican National Convention and famously chanted "Lock her up."

In the same speech, he explained his reasoning.

"I have called on Hillary Clinton to drop out of the race because she put our nation's security at extremely high risk with her careless use of a private email server."

As for Trump, roughly 300 documents with classification markings that included top secret information have been recovered from Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate.

And now it has been discovered

that Biden had documents with classified markings in a storage space in his garage.

All of them were negligent, all of them will (or have) faced little-to-no actual consequences.

These incidents have dominated the news cycle, while political partisan hacks spewed their biased talking points. Depending on the culprit, it was either "our person is being unfairly prosecuted" or "their person should be in jail."

As the political discourse turns into an endless vicious cycle there is one narrative that seems to have been left out highlighting yet another trait these three share,

They are all old.

Clinton was 66 when she finished her tenure as Secretary of state, Trump is 76 years old, and Joe Biden is 80.

Are we really that surprised that senior citizens forgot where they put something?

While there are varying degrees of intelligence among the three, it is in the realm of possibilities that these three AARP-eligible politicians did what many people in that age do every day.

They put something down and forgot where they put it.

All three of these politicians were born in a world that looks very much different than the one we are in currently. There was no internet or social media. They had to walk up hill to school and from school in a snowstorm. Their generation was too busy ruining the economy and practicing misogyny to worry about safeguarding information.

This is what happens when you put senior citizens in positions of power.

I love my grandparents. They are extraordinary people who have accomplished a lot and are full of wisdom and life experience that are guided by their moral code. I would trust them to babysit my cat or pick me up from the airport.

I would not trust them with physical or digital secret information.

I think the easiest solution would be to just stop electing old people. If you can't pass a driver's test you can't run a country. We need young people who are versed in technology to have a much less chance of leaving classified documents in their garage – especially since most young people can't afford houses.

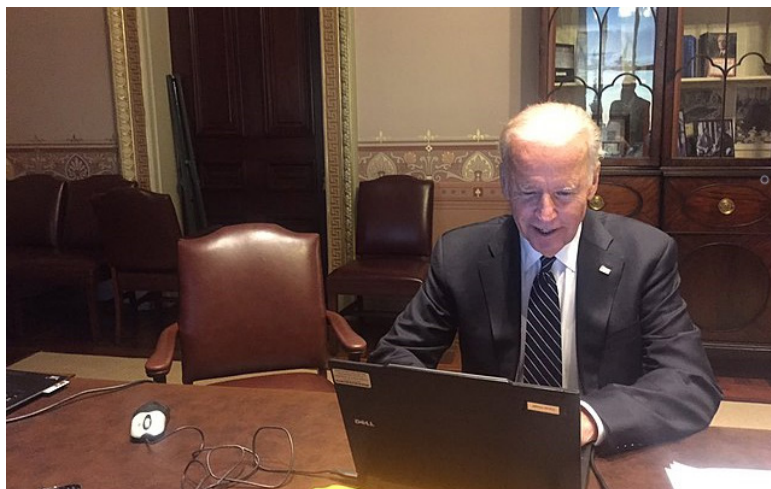
Since it is unlikely that we stop electing fossils to lead this country, we should perhaps think of installing more adaptive guardrails to protect American secrets.

Perhaps we should make access to secret documents as complicated as it was to operate a VCR in the '90s or keep those same documents in a room that only plays loud rap music.

Now while most of my suggestions are made in jest, intel is a vital part of our country's security. The wrong hands get the wrong information can have some detrimental results. We have now had three very high-ranking government officials who have been unable to account for classified information.

This is a failure of procedure, not a testament of character.

There are plenty of other examples we can point to when criticizing these elder statesmen.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

President Joe Biden joins former President Donald Trump and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton with mishandling classified information.

America is on the tipping point of tipping

SARA STAGER
staff writer

The system of tipping employees in the United States is a outdated and inconsistent way to pay workers. It is a sneaky way for employers to pay their staff less than they deserve.

The minimum wage on a federal level is \$7.25, meaning the least amount an employer can pay in this country is \$7.25. The exception is the food industry. They are able to pay certain members of their staff significantly less. Restaurants can get away with this exploitative practice by implementing tipping.

Customers, not the employer, are then responsible for making up a large percentage of the employee's income. This puts pressure on customers to leave large tips in order for the employee to have a decent pay. The dynamics between server, employee and management create a constant cycle with the only party benefiting from it being the employer.

Many can relate to the struggle of working a minimum wage job and relying on tips to make a decent paycheck. The frustration that comes with all the hard work put in to keep up with a busy and stressful shift only to be let down by the lack

of tips can be heart-wrenching.

It's a story shared by many.

One anonymous student, when asked about the tipping situation at their workplace, remarked, "My actual wage was close to \$3. The inconsistency of receiving tips was a problem. I never knew how much money I was going to make because of it and if working a particular shift was worth it at the end."

This also shows that while tipping can, in theory, be a good thing for servers, the inconsistency of customers tipping creates a sporadic history of paychecks. The inability to know how much money is going to be made on a shift, makes budgeting extremely challenging.

This is especially problematic given the current economic climate.

This situation could all be avoided if a higher, livable wage was set for establishments so that tipping is not desperately needed in order to make wages "fair."

By raising the minimum wage that includes restaurant workers, servers will no longer have to guess and worry if their pay is going to be higher or lower than usual due to inconsistent tipping from customers. Their wage will now be more consistent, and worry can be alleviated.

I have devised two possible solutions to rectify this ongoing problem of properly compensating servers.

The first solution is that a slightly higher minimum wage could be set so that tips are not needed as badly to make a wage adequate. Instead of the \$2 or \$3 minimum wage that it currently is with servers, how about doubling it?

This in turn, would mean that most of the worker's pay comes from their employer and does not rely on the kindness of strangers. The tips could be treated as a bonus, rather than a crucial and unreliable part of one's income.

The second solution would involve raising the minimum wage high enough that a tipping system is unnecessary. The increase in wages would compensate for the difference for the missed tips. This would also mean that the employer would be responsible for paying their employees instead of relying on their customers.

There are pros and cons to both proposals. Servers, like the rest of us, want to make the most money possible. The removal of tipping could provide stability, but could also mean making less money.

Tipping also provides a level of feedback for servers. If they do a good job, they are compensated for it, as one would if they worked a sales job with commission.

The necessity of the current tipping system also only primarily exists in this form here in the United

States. In Europe, while there still is a tipping system, it is nowhere near as stressed nor as high as it is here. This shows that while it might be difficult to initially change the way that American retail and food service industries are economically set up, it is not impossible. It is possible to do so as there are other places in the world that use a much milder system of tipping.

Overall, we need to do something about properly compensating

the employees that serve us our food. This is a nationwide problem that can be fixed. People should not have to be guessing or stressing about how much their paycheck will be during a shift or multiple shifts because of how generous a person decides to be on a given day.

Change, and I'm not talking about the metallic coins that people use to leave cheap tips, needs to happen.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Servers in the United States routinely rely on tips, rather than wages from their employees.

Pat on the back: DU grad thriving with Patriots

ISABELLA ABBOTT
features editor

It's Sunday, meaning game day. All content from last week is posted and ready to go. Work is seemingly done at the moment. But the work week has just started over for Veronica Behonick, a Duquesne University alum and current social media supervisor for the New England Patriots.

Behonick's day-to-day schedule can involve anything from managing social media accounts to mapping out different content for new posts. But what her audiences don't see is how she dedicates her day to following trends and events happening on different media platforms.

"As professionals, we monitor what's going on in the world," Behonick said. "Understanding what the temperature is on social media and in the public eye. As members who oversee the posting of content, it really falls on us to be the eyes and ears of listening to what the internet is saying that particular day."

She didn't learn this all overnight.

Behonick had many different internships and job opportunities, working for teams such as the Pittsburgh Penguins, Tennessee Titans, Nashville Predators and Florida Panthers, all of which led to her current opportunity with the Patriots. Some of these positions even afforded her the chance to work for championship-caliber teams.

She hit the internship jackpot while at Duquesne, landing a gig with the Penguins. She got to work with the team during their Stanley Cup victory in 2016.

"I don't think anybody had a better senior year of college than I did," Behonick said. "I mean, you just can't top that. It's as good as it gets."

A year later, she was working for the Nashville Predators. That season, Nashville made it to the Stanley Cup Final, where they took on none other than the Penguins.

"That was an interesting experience I will never forget, because it was a new team playing a team that [I] just came from," Behonick said.

Although Behonick started her career in a sports-centric city like Pittsburgh — one of the reasons why she chose Duquesne in the first place — when the opportunity

that happens in 16 different cities across the country every Sunday.

"It's just so fun to help be the vehicle, to get the message to them or to connect them with the team."

As well as loving fans' enthusiasm, Behonick also enjoys witnessing the thrill that arrives each and every game day.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VERONICA BEHONICK

Veronica Behonick is seen here at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Mass. Behonick, a 2016 Duquesne University graduate, serves as the social media supervisor for the New England Patriots.

arose for her to work for the Patriots, she decided to move back to her home state of Massachusetts.

She said her favorite part so far is being the connector between the public and fans to the sports team that they love.

"I think the relationship between fans, organizations and teams is so special," Behonick said. "I think the most-human thing ever is to love something so much that you cheer for them every Sunday, and the beautiful thing about the NFL is it's something

"The electricity in the air on game day is unmatched," she said. "I think part of the reason why we and I love sports so much is that it's so unifying, and there's really no rhyme or reason to it."

Behonick is still grateful for everything she learned while studying at Duquesne until 2016.

"I had a lot of great professors there that helped me develop the more-technical skills — sharpen[ing] your AP writing and learning how to condense things when

you're writing specific copy," Behonick said, "and I give them credit because it helped me a lot."

"I'll be forever grateful to Duquesne because they opened the door for me to do so many things that have allowed me to grow, and have put me on the path to what I'm doing now," Behonick said.

She advises anyone looking to break into the world of sports after college to continue networking.

"Take every opportunity you can," Behonick said. "Network with alumni or reach out to people whose job you think is really cool or who's in a position that maybe someday you want to be in, and just learn about their path to get there."

"I think it's just priceless to learn and talk about those things, because we were all right there. But just keep putting yourself out there and keep working. It's going to work out."



Veronica Behonick's job requires constant communication. She's seen here holding two phones while on the job in New England.

MORE PICTURES FROM VERONICA BEHONICK'S PATRIOTS CAREER



Behonick is seen working at Gillette Stadium during a Patriots preseason game on Aug. 19.



Veronica Behonick (left) with Alex Francisco (right), a Patriots team reporter, on game day.

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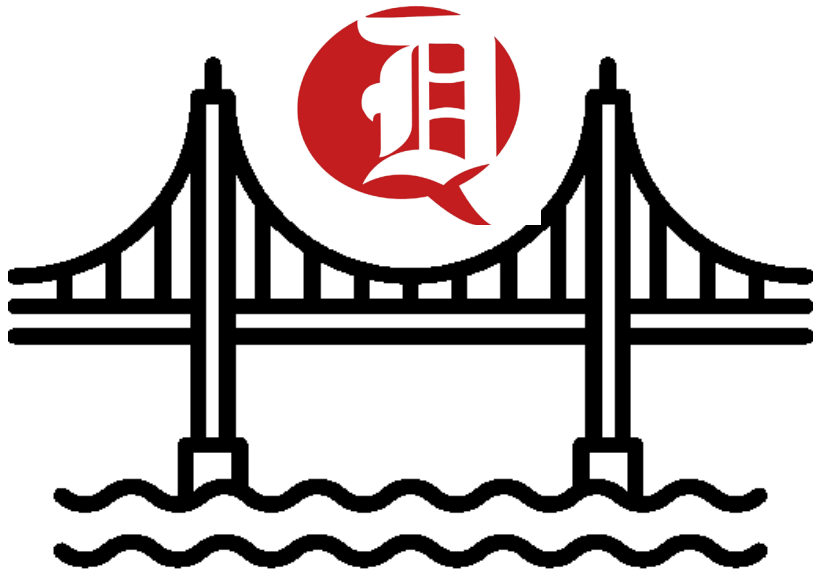
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