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THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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Allegheny GoatScape trots their way to campus

The \$1 billion making history

EMILY AMBERY
layout editor

Trees stabilize soil, increase infiltration of water into the ground and out of the overcrowded sewer system and divert heat energy in urban spaces.

This week, the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service awarded more than \$1 billion in grants to plant and maintain trees on Sept. 14, the largest climate investment in history.

Pittsburgh organizations and the City of Pittsburgh forestry division received a combined \$9 million in federal funding.

The city's vacant lots tree planting project is designed to mitigate urban heat effects across city neighborhoods received \$1 million. The program, focused on underserved communities, identifies, removes and replaces hazardous plants. The Pittsburgh Canopy Alliance was awarded \$8 million.

"Trees are the living breathing anchor that keep soil in place in Pittsburgh," said David Kahler, assistant professor in the Center for Environmental Research and Education. "Giving city residents access to greenspaces and including the community in tree maintenance shows Tree Pittsburgh's support for environmental justice."

Pittsburgh Canopy Alliance includes Tree Pittsburgh, Western PA Conservancy, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, Landforce, Allegheny Land Trust, Allegheny County Conservation District, Goatscape, UrbanKind Institute and Friends of the Riverfront.

Dedicated to strengthening and building community vitality through restoring and protecting the urban forest, Tree Pittsburgh's Executive Director, Danielle Crumrine, led the application. Crumrine, a Duquesne alum, has been executive director for 15 years.

"We're very fortunate that our proposal was funded as high as it was. We asked for 13 million and we got 8 million, so we'll have to adjust our numbers but that's a huge investment," Crumrine said. "It's really going

see BILLION—page 2



EMMA POLEN | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Sunshine the miniature donkey and Erin Gaughan from Allegheny GoatScape hang behind Rockwell. When Gaughan and the rest of the staff goes home for the night Sunshine stands guard over the goats. Sunshine's crew will continue to work by eating the greenery on Duquesne's hill throughout Friday.

ISABELLA ABBOTT
features editor

Behind Rockwell on the hills above the Duquesne rock, goats and a donkey were found grazing on the intense greenery throughout this week.

Allegheny GoatScape, a nonprofit organization that reduces invasive vegetation in public spaces with farm animals, made its second-ever trip to Duquesne with Sunshine leading the herd's landscaping efforts.

The nonprofit utilizes five herds of animals, each typically consisting of more than six goats and one donkey. Team Sunshine began their work in 2019 and features Sunshine the mini donkey and 14 goats, including Peanut, Shrimpy, Miso, Mango, Love Song, Chip and Dale.

Executive Director Gavin Deming established the organization in 2017 after transitioning from a former organization named Steel City Grazers. After seeing the goats in action eating away invasive plants, Deming said he wanted to continue the Steel City Grazers and turn it into the nonprofit it is today.

"Pittsburgh is a very green city, but a lot of greenery is invasive plants," Deming said. "While some plants have done well and

allow the native plants to continue to thrive, invasive plants take advantage and take over spaces so that the native plants can't grow, which has a ripple effect on the whole ecosystem."

According to Allegheny GoatScape, giving goats access to intentional properties removes vegetation in an eco-friendly and efficient manner. And since they can climb terrain difficult for humans and machinery, they're the perfect way to eliminate vegetation.

"As a staff, it would have taken us a long time, and just allowing the goats in there to do their thing over a few days was really impressive," Deming said. "And knowing that by utilizing goats, we're avoiding using a lot of sprays, herbicides, that sort of thing, I was taken by the whole idea."

Some students, like Casey Sullivan, said that although she hadn't seen the goats here, she'd seen them at the Waterfront at work.

"I think it's a really good thing for the environment that they're using natural mowing instead of using a machine," Sullivan said.

The herds work with their donkey as a leader and their goats as followers. While the goats graze, their donkey leader, Sunshine, ensures they're safe. Deming said



EMMA POLEN | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dale the Goat climbed up to the top of the Rockwell hill, a hill his goatkeepers called "one of the treacherest" they had ever seen.

that this partnership works because donkeys need companionship just as much as goats.

"While I'm sure they'd prefer a whole bunch of donkeys to hang out with, they do well hanging out with goats. And so, just as an added insurance, we want to make sure our animals are protected, so that's why we have the donkey," Deming said.

Community Engagement Coordinator for Allegheny GoatScape, Erin Gaughan, said Sunshine is like a "guard donkey."

"People sometimes think she

herds the goats to move them into the trailer, but she doesn't do that," Gaughan said. "Donkeys have an innate dislike of canines, and in a lot of spaces, we do have to worry about coyotes or even dogs, so if they get into a space where the goats are, they would attack."

Though Gaughan said she has taken a "keen interest" in Sunshine the donkey as her favorite animal, she loves the goats so much that she even has one tattooed on her.

see GOATS—page 2

POLICE BRIEFS

Saturday, Sept. 16-

Duquesne officers were dispatched to St. Ann's Hall for an intoxicated male.

Sunday, Sept. 17-

Campus police discovered criminal mischief occurred in the Lourdes Grotto.

Monday, Sept. 18-

A Duquesne University student was assaulted at the intersection of Diamond Street and Sixth Avenue.

EMAIL TIPS

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 Emma Polen at polene@duq.edu

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have to adjust our numbers but that's a huge investment," Crumrine said. "It's really going to help catalyze a lot of change in the region so we're super excited."

Founded in 2020, the Pittsburgh Canopy Alliance expanded to all of Allegheny County when the grant opportunity was announced in January.

The Pittsburgh Canopy Alliance received \$8 million to increase tree canopy and support a more resilient urban forest. The grant is entirely focused on Justice40 zones in Allegheny County which includes neighborhoods like the Hill District, Hazelwood and Carrick.

Justice40, a climate justice initiative of the Biden Administration, uses environmental screening tools to assess zones, neighborhoods or communities that have low tree canopy, higher levels of and are more economically distressed.

"I think equitable access to green spaces is very important, especially in urban areas where green spaces are much less frequent," said environmental science major John Smajda. "More green space means more trees that can help clean polluted urban air and also help improve and maintain good mental health for urban residents, since green spaces provide a calming atmosphere away from the sometimes hectic city environment."

The alliance analyzed data from 2015-2020 and found a net loss of 4,000 acres of tree canopy across

Allegheny County. The Alliance aims for a zero net loss future.

Tree Pittsburgh received a large portion of the grant and plants to both maintain existing programs and pilot new initiatives.

Money will go to professional tree care, such as hiring Davey Tree to support municipalities that do not have the resources for regular maintenance, distributing free trees to residents in Justice40 zones, planting trees, removing invasive species. Companies like Land Force which train adults who face structural barriers to employment, will also receive help from the grant.

The alliance plans to spend a little of the money this fall, but the bulk of the spending will happen in 2024, 2025 and 2026.

In replanting trees, Crumrine highlighted the mantra, "right tree, right place."

"We really put a lot of thought into what tree is planted and where we plant it. We plant native trees and heritage varieties, which are trees that might not be purely native, but they've been here for a really long time, and they do really well, but we do not plan invasive species," Crumrine said.

Tree Pittsburgh is piloting a program for low-income homeowners in Justice40 zones who cannot maintain their trees themselves.

"There might be a senior citizen on a fixed income who has a big old oak tree in her yard and doesn't have the money to prune it, so we would create a fund where she can come to us for support and we'll pay to prune



COURTESY OF DANIELLE CRUMRINE

Tree Pittsburgh volunteers work to plant trees that support wildlife in Pittsburgh. Executive director Danielle Crumrine encouraged Duquesne students to support climate initiatives around campus.

her tree for her," Crumrine said.

The Pittsburgh Canopy Alliance grant proposal was one of 385 selected by the Forest Services promoting equitable access to trees and nature and the benefits they provide for cooling city streets, improved air quality, food security, public health and safety. Funding was granted in all 50 states, two U.S. territories and three U.S. affiliated Pacific islands through the Individual Retirement Account.

"The Inflation Reduction Act's \$370 billion in investments will lower energy costs for families and small businesses, accelerate private investment in clean energy solutions in every sector of the economy

and every corner of the country," the IRA executive summary stated.

Initiatives around the country, like Tree Pittsburgh, will begin implementing the grant money, looking toward the future of fighting climate change.

"I think it's going to be exciting to see the implementation of this funding across the country," Crumrine said.

"If we really do a good job at the storytelling piece, hopefully, people will see the ripple effects that it has on many other parts of our lives, whether it's public health, mental health economics; there are just so many benefits to planting trees in our communities."

Sunshine leads the goats to greens

from GOATS page 1

"I do have a tattoo on my arm of a goat in particular named Peanut, who's on Team Sunshine, so I guess he's my favorite because I got him permanently on my body," Gaughan said.

Although the goats and Sunshine work for many hours at a time, they gain fuel from the plants they're constantly eating and love traveling from site to site.

"When we arrived to Duquesne, we were able to just pull right up and back in, open the gate, and they rushed right out and were very happy because they had eaten through everything at the previous site," Deming said.

The herds stay at their locations anywhere from a couple of days to a couple of weeks. Deming said it is always different and depends on the size of the area. Typically, it takes about two weeks to do a full acre. He said that Duquesne's steep hillside is very

small, so Sunshine's team will only be on campus for three to four days.

Some other areas the herds have been include West Penn Park, Pittsburgh South Side Park, Frick Park and the Erie National Wildlife Reserve.

"We love to be in parks because we get to work with a lot of different organizations that are actively managing the land, so that means we're a small piece of an overall puzzle to improve and restore a lot of these wonderful green spaces throughout Pittsburgh," Deming said.

This year, the City of Pittsburgh commissioned the goats to help clean part of the 626 acres of the brand-new park Hays Woods.

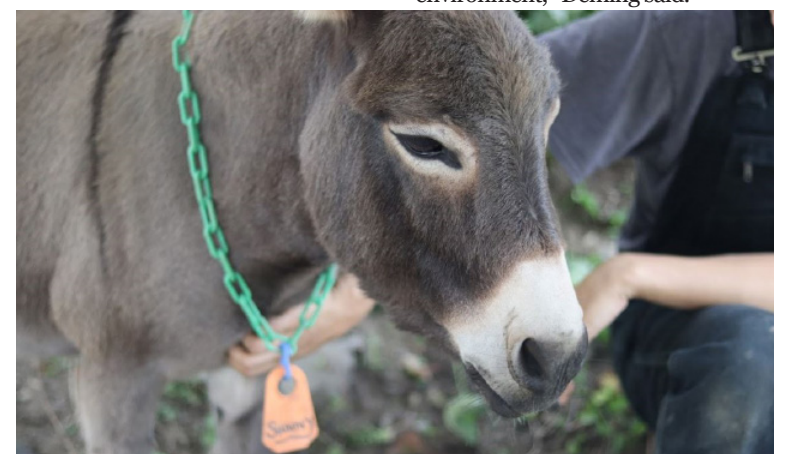
Allegheny Goatscape has many different volunteer opportunities for anyone interested in environmental improvement or just hanging out with goats. Deming said it's a great opportunity to get involved.

"You're contributing to something greater that's really helping the local environment," Deming said.



EMMA POLEN | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Nadine, one of the youngest goats in Allegheny GoatScape's herd, is a white Nubian breed. Nadine is one of three white Nubians on Sunshine's crew of goats.



EMMA POLEN | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Sunshine otherwise known as "Sunny" protects the herd from harm.

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Duquesne talks benefits with student veterans 3

EMILY AMBERY

layout editor

Duquesne University's Office for Military and Veteran Students hosted a benefit seminar on Wednesday for students to learn about the benefits they can receive from the school and governmental agencies.

Gathered in the Libermann military student lounge, students heard from U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs employees: employment coordinator Nick Boyko, transition patient advocate Dwayne Hinkle and Carmen Smith, public contact outreach specialist & minority veterans outreach coordinator.

Over Milano's pizza, the speakers shared their role with students and emphasized their ability to help with concerns in access to education, accommodations and resources.

"We can get it taken care of; we are here for your needs to be fulfilled," said Boyko, a 2006 Duquesne alum dedicated to giving back to his community. A flag he flew over Iraq is currently in Canevin Hall.

Topics of discussion included how to file a claim with the VA, common misconceptions and concerns about benefits, employment readiness, healthcare and the PACT Act, which expands coverage for veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange and other toxic substances.

Students were able to ask questions about specific policy and claim concerns in an open forum, followed by individual questions for more private concerns.

According to Kim Sugden, president of the Student Veteran Association, many veteran students struggle with access to information upon leaving the military.

"Lots that leave the service are not properly informed of the resources available to them," Sugden said. "We are holding the seminar to familiarize new vets



BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Veteran students ate lunch with members of the VA and Duquesne leadership to discuss and learn about the benefits they could receive while pursuing an education at Duquesne.

coming into Duquesne with resources and give them a sense of direction when it comes to benefits and the VA system."

Christopher Boissonnault said that with 300 online and in-person veteran students at Duquesne, director of the office for military and veteran students, it is important for support to be in place for students going from a very structured lifestyle to very little structure.

Boissonnault added that with two wars ending, PTSD and other service-related injuries and disabilities are struggles for students, so support is important.

"It was challenging going from a very hands-on lifestyle as an infantryman to a

work environment where I mostly sit behind a computer," said freshman Sean Patsfield Marine Corps vet.

Along with resources in the office, students can also take a military transition class taught by the Rev. Bill Christy.

"I enjoy the class a lot. I think we should have more classes like it and it should be available for regular students to take as well," Patsfield said.

Each speaker expressed an investment in the students at Duquesne and Pittsburgh universities, with large veteran populations offering to come into Libermann as frequently as needed.

Sophomore accounting student Ray

Penyak transferred from a university with no support for veteran students and said the wealth of resources at Duquesne shows the school cares about veterans.

He listed numerous resources at Duquesne that he has used in his time here, such as a specific librarian to help veterans research, a paper shredder in the office for students to use for VA forms, unique counseling services for veterans and talks from Wounded Warriors and other nonprofits.

"From the three certifying officers, veteran orientation, to the military transition class and the vet center alone, anytime you have a problem, there is always someone there to work with you," Penyak said.

Pickleball makes its way to Duquesne's campus

SAMANTHA HAUCK &

MEGAN TROTTER

staff writer & news editor

Duquesne University has introduced a new co-ed intramural sport available on campus— pickleball!

The games are played in a tournament style to narrow down a winner and are open to all students of any skill level.

Despite the sport being typically associated as a game for older adults, pickleball player, Brynn Tripp, has been working at a pickleball facility in her hometown in Rochester.

She said that she was so excited to have the opportunity to play with other students her age and joined a team with others she did not know.

"Pickleball is awesome," she said. "So, I thought it was a cool opportunity to try something new."

The student teams are made up of 4-5 members. People can either sign up as a team, or individuals who want to get involved can sign up alone and get assigned to a team. Tournaments take place on Monday or Wednesday from

6 to 9 p.m. Teams gather on the fourth floor of the Power Center to compete.

Pickleball nets are available not only on the fourth floor of the Power Center but also in the basketball court outside of the Duquesne Towers and Vickroy dormitories.

Michael Cecil, coordinator of Intramural and Club Sports, said it is his first year holding the position.

"We are planning to have another league starting in the end of October through November and another through December," Cecil said.

The student organization team who wins the current ongoing tournament wins \$250 that has been donated to the league. The co-ed league also wins bragging rights, according to Cecil.

Duquesne added the pickleball intramural team when the university purchased equipment last school year. This year, the university has allowed students to play for free.

Tripp said that teams are relaxed and often don't have official practices. Iovene and Costa play once a day whenever the weather is nice and refer to it as their "practice."

Greek Life organizations on

Duquesne have also gotten involved in the pickleball activities.

Members of Delta Zeta and Delta Chi have teams. Sophomores Izzy Iovene and Eliza Costa and their other team members Alex Boyko and Mackenzie Cahill saw the flyers advertising the league while waiting for the elevator in the Power Center and decided to sign up.

"We thought it would be fun to have a DZ team and not just be known as a sorority," Iovene said.

Though they started playing on a team officially in college, Iovene and Costa are not new to the sport. Iovene began playing with her grandparents, and Costa played with her mom who also enjoys the sport.

"I think it's good that Duquesne has pickleball as an option because you're meeting more people, and it's all friendly competition," Costa said.

Cecil encourages students who are looking for a fun way to exercise to sign up for the upcoming winter league.

Students who are interested in signing up can contact Cecil at cecil@duq.edu or scan the QR codes on the flyers posted around campus.



AVA RIEGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Zackary Caruso spends his freetime playing pickleball on the fourth floor of the Power Center.



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MSOC splits contests with UMass, XU

MATTHEW THEODROS &
MICHAEL O'GRADY
staff writers

After a four-game span where the Duquesne men's soccer team was averaging over two goals per game, the offense sputtered to just a single in the two games last week. It was enough for a narrow victory over UMass, but ended with their first shutout of the season in a loss to Xavier.

Forward Ask Ekeland may have scored the lone goal in the 1-0 victory on Saturday night at Rooney Field, but he knew the offense wasn't the reason the Dukes prevailed against the Minutemen.

"To be fair, it was a grind," Ekeland said, "I didn't feel like we played our best game, but I gotta give credit to the back three, and especially Zoltan in goal."

Indeed, the Dukes pulled out the win thanks mostly to the performance of goalkeeper Zoltan Nagy and the defense in front of him. Despite being on the wrong end of a 26-5 shot difference and conceding 11 corner kicks, Duquesne's defense bent but did not break. Nagy's five saves and the back line's seven blocked shots ensured a second clean sheet in a row as the Dukes climbed to 4-1-1.

Right from kickoff, the ball seemed to be flying every which way as the A-10 foes got used to each other. For both teams, it was their first taste this year of conference play, and each looked energized in the early going. Over time, however, the ball shifted to the Duquesne side of the field.

"UMass definitely came to play," Duquesne Head Coach Chase Brooks emphasized. "They were aggressive, big. We knew what they were gonna do."

Although the Dukes defense answered the bell, they caught a break six minutes in when Minutemen forward Nick Zielonka fired a

grounded cross off the outside post. Duquesne's response was quick and effective. In the twelfth minute, forward Jayden Da made an inspired run past midfield, sliced through two enclosing defenders, and sent a pass Ekeland's way which he promptly tapped in the net for his fourth goal of the season and the Duquesne lead.

"I just had to finish, it was so easy for me," said Ekeland, who hadn't scored since netting a hat trick on August 27th. "I'm privileged to have as good of teammates as I have, and for me it's just to finish it off."

From there, the Dukes defense tested their limits against a relentless UMass push. There was some danger after the goal when UMass midfielder Jack Englebert let go a rocket from just outside the box, but it was blocked back to him, and after an equally powerful second try, the ball was cleared to safety.

At halftime, Duquesne introduced several alumni at midfield, some of whom the current team were familiar with.

"I give the alums credit, because they showed out in force and put a lot of energy into us," Brooks said. "It carried over to the bench and carried over to the guys on the field."

The second half was much like the first but the Dukes held strong. The defense shut down an imposing fast break, and much later, Nagy made his statement save of the game with a soaring leap to deny a strike from UMass defender Pierre de la Croix-Vaubois. When the final whistle blew, several Dukes fell to the ground exhausted, their white jerseys blotched with sweat.

Brooks commended the effort postgame, but insisted on raising it on both sides of the ball.

"The defense literally gave us everything tonight, they stayed focused on the next action, and that's what it takes sometimes," he said. "Now, what we've gotta do is make sure those guys understand that that's the standard, and now pick the offense back up."

"I would give all credit to the defense today," Ekeland agreed. "The game wasn't the best, but we grinded it out, showed the group mentality, and that's what matters in the end."

The victory continued a five-game unbeaten streak for the Dukes but the hot streak came to an end with a 2-0 loss on Tuesday to the Xavier. Brooks attributed the loss to fatigue and a heavy workload from the competitive match three days prior.

"Coming off a battle of an Atlantic-10 Conference game on Saturday night we saw that the energy was a little low," Coach Brooks said. "But ultimately there are no excuses, we were not good enough."

The Musketeers dominated from start to finish controlling the ball for the majority of the contest, although their goals came rapidfire.

Jerome Jolly scored a long-distance goal 22 minutes into the game.

Three minutes later, after a jumbled possession where the ball was bouncing between players, Duquesne's Sam Bennett put the ball in his own net giving Xavier a 2-0 lead.

With their backs against the wall, Duquesne still could not jump start their offense.

In the second half, the Dukes offense stagnated and was outshot 8-3. They were not able to get any shots on goal in the second half, and only one in the whole contest.

This was Duquesne's first scoreless match since the Atlantic-10 conference semifinal against Loyola Chicago in 2022. They will travel to face the Ramblers on Saturday.

Brooks spoke about the key matchup and how they plan on bouncing back from the heartbreaking tournament loss.

"The intensity has to be there from start to finish," Brooks said. "We lacked that today and even in that second half at UMass. The intensity wasn't there, and those are all moments we have to learn from and recognize what has made us successful."

On the defensive end, DU was able to neutralize Xavier for the majority of the game. Nagy totaled 4 saves in the contest after putting together back-to-back shutouts in his past two games.

Forward Jayden Da spoke about future contests and emphasized that nothing else is needed except focusing on the fundamentals that will bring them back to winning ways.

"I don't think we need to adjust much in our style of play," Da said. "Continuing to bring our confidence back up and reminding ourselves what has gotten us to all our wins."



MARY GENRICH | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Ask Ekeland launches a cross. His winning goal verses UMass proved to be the winner.

Women's hoops drops 2023-24 Schedule

SPENCER THOMAS
sports editor

The Duquesne women's basketball team released the schedule for their upcoming season on Tuesday afternoon. It features a pair of nationally televised contests, and is highlighted by a home clash with Pitt on Nov. 18.

Beyond that rivalry matchup, the non-conference schedule doesn't feature any opponents whose stature towers over the Dukes. Last season, the Dukes went 11-4 in non-conference play, and this winter's slate of opponents suggest that a similar record is achievable.

Dan Burt's squad will open the season with a three-game road trip. The season gets underway in New Jersey on Nov. 6, when the Dukes travel to face the Princeton Tigers. After games at Niagara and Howard, the Dukes will have their home opener on the 18th when they face the Panthers in the City Game. The Dukes have lost their last two games in the rivalry, although prior to that had won nine of the previous 11 matchups.

Besides the Panthers, Duquesne will face six opponents that were on last sea-

son's schedule. The Dukes went 6-0 in those contests.

After a trip to Bowling Green, the Dukes will open the month of December with a four game homestand that includes their Atlantic-10 Conference opener against the Fordham Rams. Other key matchups include clashes with Delaware and Kent State.

The non-conference schedule closes when the Dukes take a trip to the Crescent City for the Tulane Holiday Tournament.

Their opponents for the invitational are officially TBD, but will be made up from any two of the participating teams, which include Maine, Little Rock and the hosting Green Wave.

Once the conference schedule gets into full gear, the Dukes will look to improve upon last season's 8-8 record.

On Jan. 7, the Dukes will host George Mason, a game that will be shown live on CBS Sports Network. Their other televised game comes on a trip two weeks later to Davidson.

They will face the defending conference champion Saint Louis Bilikens on Feb. 17, and will close out the regular season on March 2 with a home game against St.



BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR
Duquesne point guard Meghan McConnell takes the ball up the court during last year's matchup with Richmond. The Dukes will host the Spiders on Jan. 24, before making a return trip to Virginia on Feb. 28.

Joseph's.

Finally, Duquesne will play in the A-10 tournament, hosted at the Henrico Sports & Events Center in Virginia. For the past

three seasons, the conference champion has been a first time winner. The Dukes will look to extend that streak to four and punch a bid to March Madness that weekend.

Football blown out at Coastal Carolina

JACK MORGAN
staff writer

Coming off a 39-point loss at West Virginia, Duquesne was dealt an even bigger blow from an FBS opponent on Saturday. Coastal Carolina controlled their game from start to finish, and they came away with a 66-7 win over the Dukes in Conway, S.C.

Duquesne got the ball first, but after Ja-Mario Clements' 17-yard run on the first play of the drive, they couldn't get anything going and had to punt. Jared Brown returned the kick 51 yards to give Coastal prime field position. The Chanticleers only needed four plays to strike first, as Grayson McCall hit Kendall Kerr for a 20-yard touchdown pass.

Dukes quarterback Darius Perrantes ran into trouble on the next possession, when he was picked off by JT Killen, who returned it 30 yards for a touchdown. Just like that, the Dukes found themselves down 14-0. Unfortunately for them, things only got worse.

With 9:09 left in the first, and Duquesne having gone three and out again, the Chanticleers methodically picked apart the Dukes on a 12-play, 83-yard drive that ended with McCall hitting Sam Pinckney for an 11-yard score.

When Duquesne got the ball back, they got their offense rolling a bit. But after Keshawn Brown caught a pass from Perrantes, he fumbled the ball trying to pick up extra yards in Coastal territory. On the first play of the Chanticleers drive, McCall hit Brown again, this time for a 51-yard reception as the first quarter ended. This led to Braydon Ben-

nett punching it in from a yard out to put his side up 28-0.

Head Coach Jerry Schmitt felt like his team ran into a Coastal Carolina team that came out firing on all cylinders.

"We hit this team today, and they came out executing and playing hard, and like I said, momentum wise, they weren't going to give us that chance to get any of it. We made a few mistakes, and they parked a few touchdowns on us."

His team continued to struggle, as they were outscored 24-0 in the second quarter. They did hold Coastal Carolina to a field goal on their next drive, but then Perrantes made another mistake, throwing his second interception of the game on a deep ball. Lusk returned it from his own 37 to the Duquesne 20, leading to an easy score for the Chanticleers.

Perrantes then connected with Brown for 13 yards, Teddy Afful for 12 yards and DJ Powell for 14 yards. However, disaster struck, as Perrantes threw another interception, the Dukes fourth turnover of the first half. Tobias Fletcher returned it 100 yards the other way, giving Perrantes his second pick-six of the game. Duquesne was now down 45-0 heading into the half.

The second half started in disastrous fashion for Duquesne, as on the first offensive play of the third, second-string quarterback Jarrett Guest got the Chanticleers back on the board with a 65-yard touchdown pass to Kyle Duplessis. They finished off the ensuing drive with a handoff to Max Balthazar, who got the two yards needed to give his side a

whopping 59-0 lead with only 4:07 gone in the third.

By this point, the Dukes were being beat up on both sides of the field, and it was a challenge that Schmitt is proud to say his team took on.

"We got some guys banged up, and we were just fighting to hang in there. We played hard the whole game, but it's tough when you're taking on a team like this, an FBS team, really talented team and a great program."

The Dukes did fight back and finally got on the board. For the second game in a row, Duquesne recovered a muffed punt.

Duquesne ended up facing a fourth down a few plays later, but veteran quarterback Matt Robinson saved the day. He hit Brown for a 23-yard score, and Duquesne finally got in the endzone with 6:26 remaining in the third.

The rest of the 4th was quiet from both sides, giving Coastal Carolina a 66-7 victory. Despite accumulating 347 yards of offense, Duquesne also gave up 515 yards and turned the ball over on four occasions.

Duquesne will get a bye this week before opening FCS and Northeast Conference play at LIU. The Dukes fell to the Sharks last season in a double-overtime thriller.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Duquesne linebacker Antonio Epps lines up on the teal-colored turf in Conway, S.C.

WSOC earns scoreless draw with LUC

AIDAN WEISS
staff writer

In their second Atlantic-10 Conference showdown of the season, the Duquesne women's soccer team was able to earn their second draw in as many games as they played Loyola-Chicago to a 0-0 finish on Sunday afternoon at Rooney Field. Duquesne goalkeeper Maddy Neundorfer led the way with an eight-save shutout.

The Ramblers got off to an ideal start with two early chances in the third minute of the match, but Neundorfer was able to turn away both attempts.

From that point, the game turned sloppy, with neither team able to gain much of an edge. Neundorfer was again called upon to turn away the Loyola-Chicago attack, making a difficult save in the 15th minute on a screaming shot to the bottom right corner, and again in the 22nd minute.

Although they lacked momentum early, the Dukes finally began an offensive push in the late stages of the first half. Midfielder Mackenzie Muir led the way with two shots, but both were blocked by Rambler goalkeeper Naya Lipkens, and the half ended scoreless.

While it was a sloppy half, the Ramblers appeared to be on the verge of the lead by more than tripling the Dukes in shots, a 7-2 margin. They also played a cleaner half with only two fouls to their name compared to the

Dukes' five.

Duquesne controlled possession and tempo in the opening minutes of the second half. The team got its best chance of the game, but an Anna Bundy shot was saved out of bounds pushed off target for a corner kick.

From there, the game reverted into a back-and-forth affair. Loyola had a good chance with a potential two-on-one, but it was called back for offsides. Duquesne then had their best opportunity of the game, as forward Margey Brown got in with an odd-man-rush of her own, but her shot sailed over the crossbar.

Loyola then had their best chance of the match, as midfielder Olivia Rhodes boot-ed a shot that bounced off of the goalpost, off Duquesne goalkeeper Neundorfer, and off the goalpost again before it was finally cleared off the line by the Duquesne defense.

For the final stretch of the match, the strategies for both teams appeared to shift. Loyola-Chicago grew increasingly aggressive trying to break the deadlock, while Duquesne responded by digging in defensively to maintain the draw while not worrying about taking a lead.

The onslaught began in the 74th minute with a difficult save by Neundorfer going to her right, and it continued throughout the rest of the match as Loyola attempted 10 shots in the final 20 minutes. The most notable among those opportunities came in the 86th minute when Loyola's Taylor Harrison

rang a shot off the crossbar. The game ended in a stalemate with both teams earning a point in the standings.

After the game, Head Coach Al Alvine was pleased with the result for his time in a hard-fought affair.

"It was a typical A-10 game. Both teams fought hard, both teams created chances. Credit to Loyola, they're an athletic, aggressive team, quality side. At the end of the day, I think a point apiece was a fair result."

However, as the team prepares for the next match, they will look to break their winless streak, currently at three, and get their first win in their Atlantic 10 schedule.

"It's going to be a real challenge. Challenge to our quality, challenge to our depth," said Alvine. "We like our chances against anybody when we can fight and battle like this." The Dukes' next match is Sept. 21 where they will face the Rhode Island Rams on the road. The Rams are winless on the season, with four losses and four ties.



DELANEY KRAUS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lindsay Kraftchick (left) and Margey Brown (right) press a Loyola player on Sunday. Brown's near miss was Duquesne's best opportunity for a goal in its scoreless tie with the Ramblers.

Black Student Union serves during Fashion Week

CAMPUS EVENTS

HANNAH PETERS
staff writer

It's official – the Black Student Union (BSU) is back and in-style. On Sunday, BSU held their first major event of the year – their annual cookout, this year with a 90s theme.

Despite a last-minute location change due to weather, over 50 students, outfitted in full 90s attire, could be found in the Nite-Spot eating, playing games, dancing and singing to classics from TLC, The Notorious B.I.G., Aaliyah and more.

“We wanted people to come have fun before classes on Monday and enjoy food, hang out, meet new people and just have a good time,” said Lindsey Harris, club president.

Complete with the typical cookout cuisine, plates were filled with an array of foods including chicken, mac and cheese, pasta salad and baked beans. Bringing in a taste of home, Harris's mom also helped by contributing some of the dishes.

Adding to the festivities was a ‘Dress to Impress’ contest that offered prizes for the top three best 90s outfits. Trinity Baxter came

in first, followed by Daviont-Baker Alston and Ryan Ellison, each receiving a gift card for their impressive throwback styles.

In anticipation for the event, BSU also announced a fashion week that lasted from Tuesday to Friday. In a spirit-week-like fashion, each day featured a different theme to inspire student outfits.

The themes were decided upon by BSU's board members who all pitched their creative ideas. One board member, senior vice president of marketing and communications Madison Pollard, felt this added something new and exciting to Duquesne's campus.

“Each day we thought of something fun and creative that each student could express themselves with and still have fun doing it,” Pollard said. “Especially with the cookout today, it helps to tie back to our roots and appreciate our culture more.”

The week started off with ‘Twin Tuesday’ followed by ‘Hip Hop Make it Pop’ on Wednesday, then ‘Tear it up Thursday’ and finally ‘Brown is Beautiful’ on Friday.

While some themes, like ‘Twin Tuesday’ and ‘Tear it up Thursday,’(wearing an outfit with tears or rips in it) called upon



COURTESY OF BLACK STUDENT UNION
Trinity Baxter (right) was awarded first place for her 90s-inspired outfit at the BSU Cookout, followed by Daviont-Baker Alston and Ryan Ellison.

the fun and creative side of BSU members, other days had a more significant message.

For Wednesday's hip-hop theme, students hit campus representing artists as a tribute to the 50th anniversary of hip-hop being celebrated this year.

Also inspired by Black culture, Friday's ‘Brown is Beautiful’ included the instructions: “Brown skin is beautiful and so are you! Wear a brown outfit to celebrate the beauty of the color brown.”

The fashion week information was shared via digital flyer, available internally through Campus-Link and publicly on the organization's Instagram, @duqbsu.

Harris, who originally proposed the idea of fashion week, felt these themes were a way to spotlight the empowerment of Black creativity.

“Fashion week is to highlight different aspects of Black culture through clothing but also just to give students an opportunity to represent themselves,” Harris said.

Madison Snyder, senior vice president of programming, voiced her appreciation for the community aspect of the event.

“The best part of this week was seeing everyone's creative outfits and the way they express themselves,” Snyder said, “It's cool to see how we build a community that's actually participating in the things we're doing.”

Nialah Miller, senior vice presi-

dent of finance, said this community aspect is what she loves about being involved with BSU.

“The best part is being able to bring people together to just enjoy themselves and have a safe space where they're able to express themselves. It's always a great time,” Miller said.

To keep building on this year's growth, Pollard called upon new students to get involved and join, citing the importance of community and family on campus.

“Never be shy to talk to us – we're open to having that friendship with everyone on campus,” Pollard said. “You're not alone as a college student and BSU helps with building those relationships and friendships that help you realize you're not alone and that you have a family to help guide you and back you up.”

The same sentiment was expressed by Ethan King-Vincent who feels BSU has acted like a family for him on campus.

“Everybody knows everybody here so there's this family environment where everybody can call each other family,” King-Vincent said.

The feeling of family was no doubt present and alive during the cookout, and this event is what King-Vincent believes has sent the message to campus.

“This was a statement to the rest of the Black students at Duquesne that we exist,” King-Vincent said.

Study Abroad Fair
Sept. 21 @ 10 a.m.

Head to the second floor of the Union to learn more about abroad opportunities and a chance to win a free flight on a future program!

DPC's Epic Bingo
Sept. 22 @ 9 p.m.

Get ready to win some amazing prizes in the Union ballroom during DPC's most popular event: Epic Bingo!

Last Night of Summer Celebration
Sept. 23 @ 7 p.m.

Celebrate the last day of summer on Assumption Commons with Res Life. Reserve a lawn blanket or chair while you make s'mores and mountain pies.

Evergreen Clean Up
Sept. 24 @ 12 p.m.

Meet outside Towers and walk to Uptown to clean up. Bags, gloves and pizza will be provided. Bring water if you need it!

EMILY'S EPIPHANIES

Fuel Your Fire

"You know what I'm going to do? I'm going to take all this negativity, and I'm going to use it as fuel, I'm going to find a silver lining, that's what I'm going to do."
~ Silver Linings Playbook (2012)

We're getting to that weird point in the semester. School work is picking up; many of us are getting into the first round of exams. Lots of germs are going around, and nearly half of us are suffering from the same autumn headcold.

I will always encourage selfcare and support healthy methods of recharging and resetting yourself for success.

However, it can be very satisfying and highly rewarding to continue pushing through the adversity that we face. Flourish in spite of your ailments.

Find your own silver linings and use them to your advantage. Reframe the narrative of your week to work for you, not against you.

— Emily Fritz



COURTESY OF BLACK STUDENT UNION
Leading up to their 90s theme cookout, BSU encouraged members to celebrate Black heritage and culture by participating in Fashion Week beginning Sept. 12.

Aquarius ♒ I am the God of Bingo!	Pisces ♓ I used to have a mole on my chest.	Aries ♈ So I took it, put it back in the blender...	Taurus ♉ So campy
Gemini ♊ I'm gonna Yassify our CampusLink.	Cancer ♋ Dead microwave wrapped in a mattress: trash chute taquito. Don't do it.	Leo ♌ Two scoops of ice cream, up to three flavors.	Virgo ♍ I'm not like that.
Libra ♎ The way you know your way around Word Press...that's sexy.	Scorpio ♏ More temperamental than a tetra.	Sagittarius ♐ I! Am! Sleepy!	Capricorn ♑ Hot dog water <3

Local thespians return to Genesius during New Works Festi-

NICK ZOTOS
ads manager

This past month, amateur theater groups from across the city of Pittsburgh once again participated in the New Works Festival. The festival, which has been producing new and innovative plays for the past 30 years, has become an annual tradition hosted at Duquesne University's Genesius Theater.

The festival provides students and staff of Duquesne, as well as local thespians, the unique opportunity to view up-and-coming playwrights that have never been produced before.

"This festival brings together local community theater groups while also reaching out worldwide. This year we had over 330 different playwright submissions from both the States and other countries," said Amy Joseph, president of the festival.

Of the multiple submissions each year, 14 unique plays are selected to be produced and performed over a series of five weeks. Different acting groups from across the city are tasked to showcase each of the scripts.

The first play on the docket last

week, "Thing, or the Rothko," featured a compelling story about two women struggling through cancer together, simultaneously forming a unique bond. The play featured moments of humor, common struggle and resiliency through friendship.

"This story is organic and hits many different themes. I think that it will resonate with individuals in the audience, and they will be able to experience the bitter sweetness of the story line," said Claire Ivy Stoller, stage manager of the production.

"Resume," the second play of the night, was also unique in its portrayal of work-life balance.

"Our play is light with a comedic outlook toward the workforce. Perhaps the best way to explain it is a mix of the episodes featured in 'The Office' with more age groups being represented," Louisa Pastorius, actress in "Resume," said.

The plays that are produced in the New Works Festival also allow for play writers from across the country to see their plays first hand.

"As someone who loves theater, I think it's really cool that some of these playwrights get



NICK ZOTOS | ADS MANAGER

The cast of "Resume" was comprised of talent local to Pittsburgh.

to see their plays performed. Most times it means the world to them, and they get to experience their story come to life," Stoller said.

While these plays were performed by acting groups from across Pittsburgh, individuals did not need to be full-time actors to participate in the productions.

"These plays are open to any local talent, specifically, amateur acting for Pittsburgh residents," said actor Kevin Bass. "I am an engineer, and I love being able



NICK ZOTOS | ADS MANAGER

Home to the School of Music, Genesius Theater is host to multiple productions year-round, including Duquesne Red Masquer productions and local shows.

to use the other side of my brain. Instead of working on only numbers, I have the chance to act and do something creative. It's an outlet I enjoy, and I would recommend it to anyone who also shares a passion for acting."

Both plays last weekend featured a diverse cast of different age groups and occupations. Individuals from the business sector, retail and academia all came together to perform their respective works.

Individuals who are interested in attending these plays before

the New Works Festival ends can visit the Genesius Theater this weekend, both Friday and Saturday night at 8 p.m. Two different plays will be showcased each with a different group of actors.

"These plays provide an opportunity for the community to resonate with theater. It also provides inter collaboration between local theater communities. I think it's a great opportunity for the students here at the university to experience these plays and witness a diverse set of original productions," Joseph said.

Ahsoka: Is this the sequel we have been waiting for?

JAMES POLEN
staff writer

In 2018, the last episode of "Star Wars Rebels" aired leaving the Star Wars community with a cliff-hanger of an ending. After many years of waiting, "Ahsoka" was anticipated to be the sequel fans of "Star Wars Rebels" had been waiting for.

The show features former Jedi, Ahsoka Tano (Rosario Dawson), and her apprentice, Sabine Wren (Natasha Liu Bordizzo), on a quest to track down a map leading to the infamous Grand Admiral Thrawn (Lars Mikkelsen) and possibly to the fan-favorite Jedi, Ezra Bridger (Eman Stefandi). Neither Thrawn nor Ezra have officially been introduced in the live action "Ahsoka" show, but their names are in the cast list, teasing their future appearance.

A challenge of the "Ahsoka" series is portraying animated characters as live-action for the first time ever.

One of the most contradictory live-action portrayals is Ahsoka herself. While the former Jedi has appeared in other live-action Star Wars series, her non-human character looks like a professional cosplay of the animated character, not what was expected after the animated portrayals.

Hera Syndulla (Mary Elizabeth



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

'Ahsoka' is a live-action reboot of Star Wars characters past. Lead actress Rosario Dawson portrays the titular character as she reprises her journey in a galaxy far, far away. The show comes to Disney+ as the fifth live-action Star Wars series.

Winstead) is another non-human character who worked better as an animated character. While these characters don't look terrible in live action, it does beg the question of why the show was not animated. A large part of the show's audience is "Star Wars Rebels" fans used to seeing these characters animated. Why not make the show's sequel animated as well?

Additionally, the characters have noticeably different voices than they did in "Star Wars Rebels," another example of "Ahsoka" failing to maintain consistency with the show whose success it de-

pends on.

Unlike some of the franchise's other series, "Ahsoka" does not introduce a completely new plot. While it takes many of fans' favorite parts of "Star Wars Rebels" — such as Hera's ship, the Ghost, her trusty sidekick droid Chopper and purrgils, or space whales that can travel at hyperspeed — "Ahsoka" keeps the story fresh with new planets, new villains and the introduction of a whole new galaxy.

While these additions to the Star Wars universe are exciting, the show takes its time to develop the plot as our heroes prepare to

set off on a journey to another galaxy far, far away over the course of four episodes.

During this time, aside from some cool, orange-bladed lightsaber action, we learn little about the fallen Jedi Baylan Skroll (Ray Stevenson) and even less about his apprentice Shin Hati (Ivanna Sakhno). The series relies heavily on characters already developed in the previous "Star Wars" shows and creates very little interest for the few new characters introduced.

While the show lacks timely plot development, it does feature epic lightsaber fights and scenic



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Ahsoka Tano was originally an animated character voiced by Ashley Eckstein.

CGI settings. It also portrays the struggle of the New Republic as it tries piecing a war-ridden galaxy back together, despite holdouts of Imperial loyalists.

The series also offers promising potential with the development of Ahsoka's story as she tries to come to terms with her past and with Sabine as she learns the ways of the Force.

Only time will tell if this is finally the sequel that fans have been waiting for. Are exciting new story lines and the reappearance of rebels like Ezra Bridger still waiting in the wings?

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“When you
got nothing,
you have
nothing to
lose.”

Bob Dylan

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EDITORIAL
POLICY

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

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COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Gannett, the biggest newspaper chain in the U.S., is looking for a full-time Taylor Swift and Beyoncé reporter.

Coverage of mega-popstars may be
‘Swift’ answer to journalism woes

There is little in this life that strikes terror in my heart anymore.

My exposure to gunfire, explosions and authority has built a tolerance for the once-panic inducing scenarios. An avid lover of haunted houses and the horror genre, I have found I have become almost numb to many things that invoke terror.

There is one group that still instills a healthy level of dread in me. An organization of fierce and loyal followers who are well-funded and extremely organized. A group known for their young indoctrination and inciting radical change when in the best interest of the collective group.

It is a group, like many apex predators, that I both respect and have a healthy fear of.

This group, of course, is the Swifties.

A Swiftie, according to one of the definitions on Urban Dictionary, is “A Taylor Swift fan that places her above God. You will find more success hiring a Swiftie than a (public investigator). They pick up on everything. And assemble armies on Twitter if someone insults one of the hairs on her head.”

That does not sound like a group I would want bad blood with.

Swift has found herself in the middle of a miniature controversy when it was announced that she and mega-star Beyoncé are getting their own personal journalist.

Gannett, America's largest publisher of newspapers based on circulation, is looking to hire an “energetic writer, photographer and social media pro,” according to the job posting on Diversityjobs.com

“Seeing both the facts and the fury, the Taylor Swift reporter will identify why the pop star's influence only expands, what her fanbase stands for in pop culture and the effect she has across the music and business worlds,” the job posting stated.

This is not an unusual beat, as there have been plenty of prominent figures such as presidents and athletes like LeBron James that have been worthy of having one journalist cover them.

However, the timing seems to come at a peculiar time. Gannett, which owns more than 200 daily papers, cut its workforce last year. There were 400 employees laid off in August 2022, and another 6% of its news division was let go in December.

The Associated Press reported that the Gannett workforce has shrunk 47% in the last three years because of layoffs and attrition. At some newspapers, it has been said that the headcount has fallen by as much as 90%

The question is: How can Gannett spend resources, thus prioritizing coverage of pop stars, while local news coverage is becoming increasingly scarce across the country?

It's just a question, but perhaps instead of making Swift the villain, she could be the anti-hero local newspapers need.

I am new to the journalism game.



ZACH PETROFF

opinions editor

I am too new to care about the nuances of print media, but my strategy in the near future is to get my printed work in front of as many eyeballs as possible. I believe that the more people that see my writing, the better opportunities I will have. If more people are picking up the publications because of the cover story, that means more people will likely read my story on the fifth page.

It seems that the mega-pop queens whose reputations precede them would generate a new and plentiful audience to newspapers. This is an opportunity to also tell some compelling and relevant stories about the culture that can come from covering these icons.

This brings us closer to the conversation that we as a country need to have.

As of June, the U.S. is losing two

newspapers a week, leaving about 7%, or 211 counties, without newspapers, according to Northwestern University. The current economic model in which modern newspapers operate is not sustainable nor relevant.

TikTok and Facebook are not going to save the newspaper industry. What is going to save it is good reporting – well done, accurate reporting that is both compelling and diverse. In order to do that, you need resources.

Click chasing, printed advertisers and paywalls are not the answer. They were not the answer 22 years ago, and they are not the answer today. It's a model that the newspaper industry should break up and never ever get back together with. Ever.

The answer seems obvious, as if it has been there all along. The answer seems obvious, and to ignore it is to tolerate it, which I can no longer do.

It is time we start nationalizing local newspapers. Steve Waldman, president and co-founder of Report for America agrees. In an opinion piece he wrote for the Columbia Journalism Review he claims that while it's understandable to be hesitant to be funded by the government, newspapers have a history of taking subsidies. He cites the Postal Act of 1792 that gave a lower postage rate to newspapers to the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967 which he claimed helped create the modern system of public TV and radio by providing subsidies to local public broadcasting stations.

“It's also worth noting that we have had no problem with the government providing massive packages of assistance to American industries that were deemed important to the country, including the auto industry and the financial sector,” Waldman said. “A vibrant, free local press is as important to the country as those industries.”

However popular Beyoncé and Swift are, the coverage may just be a delay in the inevitable, or it could be the push the industry needs to realize that saving journalism requires innovative thinking that cannot be cured by tear drops on a guitar.

STAFF
EDITORIALThe parking garage
shuffle

The life of a commuter student can be hard. Traveling from off campus can present a set of challenges that are often out of control to the commuter. From inclement weather, traffic and construction, Pittsburgh has its fair share of obstructions that can turn a four-mile trip into an almost 30-minute drive.

The *Duquesne Duke* reported last week that the 8,700 graduate and undergraduate students must battle it out between the 3,000 parking spots. While it was obvious to anyone who has driven to campus this semester that parking has become a rare commodity, it was shocking to reveal the fact that there is such a high disparity between parking spaces and potential student commuters.

Parking garages by nature induce a level of high anxiety, especially for female drivers. While the data can be hard to track, the Department of Justice estimated that in 2021 over 10% of violent crimes occurred in parking garages and parking lots. While there has been little concern raised about the safety of Duquesne parking lots, it should be noted that all parking garages, especially for young people unfamiliar with the area, can induce anxiety.

This is not a new complaint, nor a grievance that will likely go away soon. What the issue seems to stem from is a lack of consideration to returning students. There is a sense that the university is catering to new students while ignoring the ones that are still here.

It is not a secret that Duquesne has been aggressive with their enrollment numbers. The new numbers are often cited within every press release that comes out. Allowing first-year on campus students to park is without a doubt a part of the university's attempt to appease incoming students.

For the students who live off campus, our needs and concerns play second-fiddle to the first-year students, and why shouldn't they? The school already has our money. Who cares if we pay a grand for a parking pass but do not have a place to park our vehicle. The check has been cashed.

It seems that a reasonable solution would be that first-year students who live on campus should have to bear the horrors of living in the middle of a beautiful city without the luxury of a car. It seems the administration is married to this policy, despite inconsistent communications about the origination of it.

The inception of the policy is moot, but what we need is common-sense reform that benefits the student body including those that live off campus.

Or as one of the *Duke's* colleagues said, “I should just go to Carlow, I'm parked closer to that campus anyway.”

Good for thee, but not for me

ELIYAHU GASSON
staff writer

Why do we keep pretending that we have to take conservatives seriously? These people can't seem to adhere to their won self-professed values.

The most recent example happened a couple of weeks ago when the congresswoman from Colorado's third congressional district needed to be escorted from a theater in Denver.

According to the Denver Post, the representative was asked multiple times by her fellow audience members to stop causing disturbances during the showing of the musical adaptation of "Beetlejuice." But Boebert couldn't stop herself from singing, dancing, photographing and vaping during the performance despite being asked by the pregnant woman sitting behind her to stop.

The pro-life representative allegedly called the concerned mother-to-be a "sad and miserable person."

Boebert, who tweeted in 2022, "Take your children to church, not drag bars," was also caught inappropriately touching and being touched by her guest, Quinn Gallagher, the supposed owner of LG-

BTQ+ friendly Bad Hooch Craft Cocktail Bar in Aspen, Colo.

This is not the only time Boebert has been caught shirking her morals to the side. The 36-year-old divorced grandmother has committed her fair share of crimes and misdemeanors before her time as a congresswoman.

Her restaurant, where the waitresses all holstered weapons during their shifts, had its license revoked after she broke the county's rules and opened for regular service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Boebert loves to back the blue, which is why she was cuffed for interfering in the arrest of underage drinkers at a country music festival in 2015. She failed to arrive at court for the charge.

She also failed to attend court after receiving a ticket for rolling her truck on a rural road. She failed to show up twice. She was arrested for wasting the court's time.

And for someone who believes that members of the community want to sexualize children, she is awfully defensive of her ex-husband Jayson Boebert, who was caught being inappropriate with a 17-year-old girl in a bowling alley. He was 24.

Lauren Boebert has shown time and time again that she does not care who she

harms, so long as she has a good time.

Other conservatives have shown a similar pattern.

Take Tim Murphy, the former Republican representative from Pennsylvania and a pro-life zealot who, in 2017, tried to pressure a woman that was not his wife, to get an abortion when he mistakenly thought she was pregnant as reported by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

We can also look back and see America's mayor, Rudy Giuliani, perform in drag in a video with Donald Trump pre-presidency.

Let's stop with respect. Let's stop pretending that there is some moral reasoning these conservative politicians use to justify their decisions.

We need to finally hold the right wing accountable. We should not be afraid to be call out conservatives who are hell-bent on taking government protections away from vulnerable people, all while they secure their positions at the top of the hierarchy.

This recent conservative movement that seemed to gain steam during the rise of Trump, seems to lack empathy along with a twisted, if not hypocritical moral guide.

Conservatives used to believe smaller government, now it appears that the party

is adhering to this MAGA culture. Gone are the days of limited spending and sensible legislation only to be replaced with threats of removing government protections for queer people and unwed mothers.

American conservatives want what is worse for everyone but them and their friends. They do not care who has to inhale their secondhand smoke so long as they get hit with fat clouds in a crowded theater.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Congresswoman Lauren Boebert was kicked out of a musical for lewd behavior.

Loneliness is the silent pandemic

MAX MARCELLO
staff writer

There is an ongoing, yet silent crisis in our world today. It does not receive flashy headlines or star-studded podcast roundtables, nor does it receive the society wide awareness necessary to remedy it. Instead this crisis adroitly slips into our lives undetected, consuming us from the inside, creating an intimately personal form of torture, leaving an individual unrecognizable in the process. The condition is a virus. It is a fatal wound that humanity has chosen to inflict upon itself; Loneliness.

Despite living in the most interconnected period in human history, our society today is significantly more lonely than ever before. The situation has deteriorated to such a point that the U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murty declared, loneliness to be an "epidemic" and a "public health crisis." The psychological harm of lack of human contact is well understood by medicine. Prisoners who have been in solitary confinement for long periods of time have permanent, detectable brain damage. While most of us are not going to have that degree of damage, loneliness is rewiring our brains.

Contrary to what some may think, loneliness is a global problem. Southeast Asian societies which emphasize collectivist beliefs are just as susceptible to loneliness as the hyper-individualistic culture of the United States. The underlying catalyst for our loneliness must originate from something else, and I would argue that the smoking gun is right in our hands, our

phones. Social media, which was advertised to bring the world closer together in the 2000s, is paradoxically driving us apart today. The problems of social media are two fold. The first has to do with obsessing over image and superficiality. However the second and far more pervasive problem is social media's tendency to monopolize communication.

Social media has largely created a climate whereby its use is necessary in order to communicate with peers and friends. Problems arising from the Instagramification of our social lives have been well documented. Studies have conclusively proven that platforms like Instagram have a direct negative impact on users' mental health, particularly for young women.

However, I want to pivot to the far more sinister and less talked about aspect of social media, its direct impact on the user base.

Fear of missing out, or FOMO, is a very real thing according to the National Institutes of Health. And tech companies leverage the biological fear of social isolation against the user. This predatory behavior creates a negative feedback loop where the user stays on social media harming themselves in the process.

The user cannot help themselves as the isolation anxiety chains them to the phone. It is perhaps for this reason that everywhere you look, people are on their phones compulsively checking their status all to feel less lonely. In addition to controlling our digital selves, these platforms have largely succeeded in weakening a user's ability to inter-

face with the real world, making them more dependent on the platform for meeting their social needs. This cycle turns users into a Sisyphus of sorts. All the while tech and media companies continue to flourish in the loneliness economy of their own creation.

While most research around loneliness focuses on the individual, we cannot gage the true impact of loneliness until we look at the macroenvironment. Loneliness when translated to a society manifests differently to different groups. Chronic isolation has different effects on nursing home patients than young men.

Young men in particular are growing lonely at an alarming rate and its effects have a widespread impact on society according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. These young men are forming digital communities that have real world harm. The internet has given new life to a toxic content which acts like a vortex drawing these lonely men in deeper, and bombarding them with extremist content and cheap fixes.

The rampant idolization of characters such as Patrick Bateman, Louis "Lou" Bloom, and Ryan Gosling's Driver is a litmus test to how unhealthy their outlook on real life has become. While these communities have become infamous for their advocacy of violence, other cases of loneliness take a more self-destructive turn. Many who suffer from loneliness often turn to alcohol and other drugs to cope with the pain of isolation. This compounded with the physiological effects from loneliness itself can take years off a person's life and set the stage for serious health con-

ditions.

Redressing this messy situation is not going to be politically or socially easy as solving the loneliness crisis does not have a clear way out. Loneliness is multifactorial and demands a response that is just as diverse. Even though the solution may be difficult to comprehend, we best address this situation sooner rather than later lest our society continue a steady decline.

For as the old African proverb states, "A child who is not embraced by the village shall burn it down to feel its warmth."



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Isolation has only increased with the popularity of social media for both older and younger generations.

International students feel at home on campus

HANNAH STELITANO
staff writer

The thought of traveling to a completely different country to attend college seems extremely frightening, but luckily, at Duquesne, many international students strive to embrace diversity and appreciate other cultures through the International Students Organization.

Duquesne University is globally known as a great school for international students, which is why more than 500 students in both graduate and undergraduate schools from over 85 different countries attend school here.

The International Students Organization (ISO) is one of the largest student organizations on campus. This group holds weekly events that allow students to share their traditions to help showcase their different cultures.

Whether you are an international student and want a group of people you can relate to or a local student who wants to learn more about other cultures, anyone is welcome to attend an ISO event.

Saskya Hector, ISO president said taking on this leadership role has allowed her to open up more opportunities to international students at Duquesne as well as push herself to expand her personal horizons.

“By being in ISO, I am able to make campus, even if it is once a month, feel like home for me and other international students through our events,” Hector said.

Hector grew up in Haiti but came to

Duquesne to expand her academic career.

“Before Duquesne I was someone who was afraid to take risks and hid myself behind my routines. By leaving Haiti and coming here to the U.S. for college, I was able to get out of my comfort zone and became a better version of myself,” Hector said.

The ISO allows for all international students to get together to share their stories of things that may seem normal in their culture but are frowned upon here.

Veronica Cabellos, vice president of the ISO, said coming to a college in the U.S. has many differences in the aspect of living situations.

In Columbia, where Cabellos grew up, colleges did not have dorm rooms. When she first saw the room that she was to live in for the next nine months, Cabellos was in complete shock.

The room was nothing like she expected, and she had a hard time preparing what to bring since she had to fly here.

“When stepping into my dorm room for the first time, it felt like I was in prison,” Cabellos said.

Cherise Dicke, an international student from South Africa, said how not only the campus at Duquesne, but also the city of Pittsburgh itself made her transition here so easy.

Although it was extremely difficult leaving her family, Dicke made the most of it by keeping herself occupied by the many events the city offers.

Dicke is also a member of Duquesne’s rowing team, which highlights one of the



COURTESY OF CHERISE DICKE

The International Student Organization on campus allows international students to interact with one another, like Veronica Cabellos and Cherise Dicke, pictured above.

many ways the university is able to bring in more international students through sports.

“I knew I wanted to pursue rowing in the United States so I went through a recruiting agency and ended up being recruited by Duquesne,” Dicke said.

Sports are a huge attraction at Duquesne, so by recruiting in other countries, Duquesne allows more international students to explore it as an option to further their education.

If you are not looking to pursue a sport, Duquesne is also on Common App, which also allows international students to find

the university.

“I knew I wanted to go to school in the U.S. since the rankings here were better. When I applied filters on the Common App, Duquesne came up, and I loved the website,” Cabellos said.

International students also find Duquesne through family generations.

“Twenty years ago, my father came to Duquesne University for a one-year program. He had an amazing time during this year, and because of that I included Duquesne in my choices for universities,” Hector said.

Three new sports arriving on campus

ISABELLA ABBOTT
features editor

Duquesne University has recently announced the arrival of three new women’s sports on campus. Members of the newly formed triathlon, golf and acro and tumbling teams said they’re thrilled to begin their seasons as Duquesne athletes and coaches.

Duquesne alumna Joella Baker was named triathlon head coach on July 26, 2022. She swam and ran track and cross country years ago and is happy to be back on the Bluff to coach. She said being at Duquesne was “the best years of her life.”

Her team has competed in its first two races, including its first home race at Brady’s Run Park on Sept. 9 and its first race in program history in North Carolina Sept. 3.

The team’s first-ever race consisted of a 200-meter swim, a 10-mile bike ride followed by a rolling two-mile run, while their home race consisted of a 750-meter swim and 20k, or 12.4-mile, bike and a 5k run.

The team received runner-up in North Carolina, where they competed against four teams, and fourth place in Beaver Falls, which featured 76 athletes with 13 teams.

Athlete Alaina Hicks was one of five Dukes to place in the top 10 for their Sept. 3 race.

Hicks is one of two sophomores on the roster and ran cross country before switching this year to triathlon. She said she decided to join the team after her former coach, Baker, reached out to her.

“She’s actually been my coach for about 10 years I already worked very well with her, and we knew each other for many years before that,” Hicks said.

Like many of her teammates, Hicks started competing in triathlons at a young age



COURTESY OF JOELLA BAKER

Duquesne’s triathlon team competes this weekend at the Giant Acorn Triathlon Festival in Virginia.

and would race about five times a year. Her favorite part about her Duquesne team so far is her teammates.

And like Hicks, Baker is ready for more races.

“Seeing how the girls respond to each other and work together and persevere and overcome any obstacles that they’ll have during a race is exciting to me,” Baker said. “I think we have a great group of young ladies who are going to surprise a lot of people.”

As an advocate for triathlon herself, Baker has seen the Pittsburgh community already show their support for her team.

“It’s a growing sport in Western Pennsylvania... and I know the triathlon community is extremely excited about us having a team,” Baker said. “A lot of people I know from the community have already purchased our gear, and I think that goes a long way for the city to show that they’re backing this new team and want to see us be successful.”

Having raced more than 250 triathlons in her life, Baker knows her athletes will appreciate the sport like she does while at Duquesne.

“It’s something that these girls can do for the rest of their life,” Baker said. “It’s just a sport that you can do for a really long time.”

The triathlon team will have their next meet Saturday, Sept. 24, at the Giant Acorn Triathlon Festival at Lake Anna in Virginia.

Although the women’s triathlon team started their season this fall, the other two teams will begin competing in the inaugural 2024 season. Both are preparing for their start.

Acro and tumbling coach Michaela Soper was named head coach on May 11. She first started on her coaching path after a career-ending injury during her senior year of high school. She is ready to recruit more girls to compete.

“I think that Duquesne is just a fantastic institution academically, and so adding a sport like this is just going to add depth to the overall student-athlete experience

here,” Soper said. “There’s such a great recruiting pool right around us, there is nothing but success ahead, and I’m excited for what’s to come.”

Soper is excited to have this opportunity at Duquesne not just for the competition and new sport, but because the sport is “created for women by women.”

“I think it’s just one of those things where if you can see someone in that role, it allows them to have that opportunity at the end of the day to say, ‘Hey, I can do that because I’ve seen these women go off and be successful in their career,’” Soper said. “The opportunities are truly endless, and there’s a lot of things that come from the sport in the first place.”

The other sport making its debut in 2024 is golf. Colleen Meyers was named head coach on Aug. 14, and unlike the other coaches, she got into the sport later in life.

Though she didn’t start playing until after college, her twin daughter and son played golf at Notre Dame, and one still plays at Penn State. She said she’d make sure they were always proud of how they competed.

“Whenever they were in a tournament, and they completed it, even if they didn’t play their best, I would say, ‘What are the three things that you’re proud of today?’ and would try to make sure they focused on the good things that happened,” Meyers said. “I kind of found my calling to be a coach through that.”

When their season starts, Meyers’ goal is to have positivity and a good team culture.

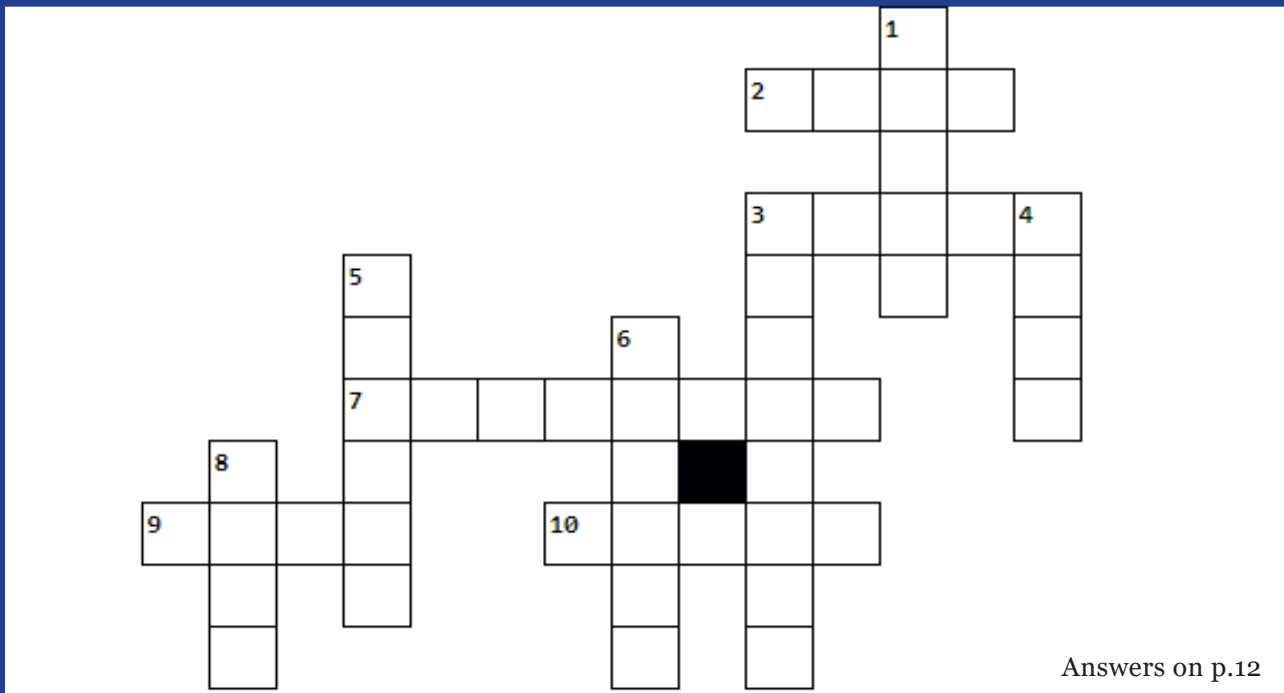
“I want to build a team that immediately makes a mark in our conference, I know we can do that it’s just all about hard work, it’s all about believing in each other, it’s all about the offseason preparations that you make,” Meyers said.

“And I feel like we can absolutely build a very strong team, and I’m looking forward to the future.”



DUKE CROSSWORD

GOATS.



Answers on p.12

CLUES

Across

- 2. How many stomachs?
- 3. Goats' favorite pastime
- 7. What goats will put in their mouths
- 9. Greatest of all ----
- 10. Goat on a stick

Down

- 1. Protector of goats (News this week)
- 3. Goats in high places
- 4. Group of goats
- 5. facial hair
- 6. Goated dairy delicacy
- 8. babies

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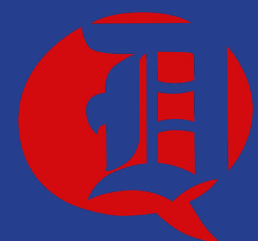
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