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October 26, 2023  
Volume 109  
Number 10  
[www.duqsm.com](http://www.duqsm.com)



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On the cover  
Sophomore Aubrey Posluszny plays the psychic Helga ten Dorp in "Deathtrap," showing until Nov. 5 in Genesisius Theater. The cast will perform a special Halloween night performance at midnight of Oct. 31. Tickets are available now on the Red Masquers website and are free for all Duquesne students.

Photo courtesy of Red Masquers

More about "Deathtrap on page 2



## POLICE BRIEFS

**Tuesday, Oct. 17-**

A witness reported damage to an unattended vehicle in the Locust Garage.

**Wednesday, Oct. 18-**

A resident of Assumption Hall became the victim of an email scam.

**Wednesday, Oct. 18-**

A faculty member received an email from a fraudulent DUQ email account. The faculty member sent \$150 over Venmo but did not receive the item she purchased. Venmo has been contacted, and the victim reported the incident to her bank as well as the Federal Trade Commission.

**Thursday, Oct. 19-**

A student reported damage to her vehicle while parked in Forbes Garage.

**Thursday, Oct. 19-**

A student received an alcohol violation and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

**Friday, Oct. 20-**

DUPO was dispatched for a report of a stolen purse from a student vehicle.

**Saturday, Oct. 21-**

There was a report of disorderly conduct in Vickroy Hall. A student is being referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

**Sunday, Oct. 22-**

DUPO noticed a female student stumbling and assisted by her friends. After being assessed in the Towers lobby she was referred to the Office of Student Conduct for being intoxicated.

**Sunday, Oct. 22-**

An intoxicated student fell and hit her head. She was transported to the hospital.

## 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

# Deathtrap: A charade in the weird and unhinged

NICHOLAS ZOTOS

ads manager

The Red Masquers kick off the spooky season on the Bluff featuring the 1978 murder mystery "Deathtrap" by playwright Ira Levin. This engaging two-hour production has been active for the past two weeks with each show containing an array of unexpected jarring twists and turns.

The show's plot follows a formerly successful playwright, Sidney Bruhl, as his desperate desire to write a big hit consumes him.

His obsession and financial struggle lead him to the idea of stealing student Clifford Anderson's script and committing cold-blooded murder to cover it up. The playwright lures the young student to his house and discovers that there are no other copies of Clifford's script in existence. Sidney jumps on this opportunity, appearing to kill Clifford.

However, things do not go according to plan and a visit from a psychic reveals Sidney may be in danger himself.

Knowing the production would be running in October, cast members chose to perform "Deathtrap," because the plot has a mix of both chilling rhetoric and witty dialogue. The combination kept viewers on the edge of their seats.

"There is definitely a spooky aspect to this play. We had a plan as an organization that we wanted this production to fit the theme of Halloween. However, we also wanted there to be a humorous component as well" said Ryan Graves who played the part of Clifford Anderson, the young student who naively trusts Sidney.

"Sidney is a middle-aged playwright who was once successful but has been struggling recently. He is simply desperate. This forces the character to do multiple things during the play that shock the audience and keep them engaged," said Ethan



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE RED MASQUERS

The students in charge of set design had to take special safety precautions and nail the weapons to the wall of the set.

Nafus, the actor portraying Sidney.

One of the unique features of the show is the references of itself as a play within a play with Clifford's script in the play also being titled "Deathtrap." Levin's original production contains only two acts all performed within one set. "Deathtrap" currently holds the record for the longest running comedy-thriller on Broadway.

The cast and crew spent the last six weeks preparing. Despite having only five total actors on stage they reaped the fruit of their labor last Thursday as more than 40 individuals attended their production.

The play itself featured multiple jump scares and props. They both contributed to the spooky nature of the production and allowed for the unexpected nature of the plot to flourish. Stage manager Rachel Potts said that the props used in the show

are heavily regulated to ensure no cast members are accidentally hurt.

"This play is especially unique because of the darker tones and unique props in the show. It forces the actors to come out of their comfort zone and portray themes they never have portrayed before," Potts said.

The audience ate up the multiple cliffhangers and plot twists, and the show closed with a near standing ovation at the end.

For productions beyond "Deathtrap," that require more than five actors, Graves said The Red Masquers are always looking to have new talent. He encourages people to try their hand at acting.

"To be involved, you just need to push past the nervousness of theater. There are many opportunities to get involved like stage managing and writing. Plus, we want our produc-

tions to not only entertain individuals but also inspire some to share in our enjoyment of theater," he said.

Students who enjoy The Red Masquer's productions and want to become more involved in acting are encouraged to reach out to the club through CampusLink.

For individuals who have not yet seen the production and are looking for a chilling and frightening night of theater, the Red Masquers will continue running the play throughout the month of October through the first week of November. The club's last showing will be on Nov. 5. Duquesne students are welcomed to attend the midnight showing for free on Halloween.

The Red Masquers' next holiday play, the 1940s "A Christmas Carol" will open on Dec. 6 and run until Dec. 9.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE RED MASQUERS

Ethan Nafus playing Sidney Bruhl and intimidating his "wife" mid act.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE RED MASQUERS

Aubrey Posluszny played Helga ten Dorp who warned Sidney of the impending gruesome events throughout the show.



# What's scarier than no free speech? 🦋

EMMA POLEN  
editor-in-chief

Matt Canada is a great offensive coordinator and deserves his job.

Duquesne is a completely reasonable-priced higher education institution and students should actually be paying them more.

These opinions could be considered controversial, but they were the topics students were forced to support of at last week's Society for Professional Journalism First Amendment Free Food Festival.

The event tested what could happen if free speech disappeared in America.

Each student who participated in the First Amendment event was handed a "propaganda passport" which had a topic of discussion they, as college students in Pittsburgh, were sure to disagree with. Throughout the event, any time the students said something controversial to their propaganda passport, they were called out for disagreeing with the law.

One student compared the event to playing Papers Please, a puzzle game where the player acts as propaganda for a communist country with [demanding] stresses against the player, their family in the game and their country.

Tanner Maue, a freshman who attended the event, gritted his teeth when having to say a statement that he truly did not believe

in. His propaganda passport made him say that Steeler's Offensive Coordinator Matt Canada is good at his job.

Freshman Isabel Arraes said the activity made her feel like she was in "1984" by George Orwell.

For her friend, Abby Zook, the challenge of either saying something she did not agree with or getting in trouble if she said the wrong thing brought her to a conclusion: "Just keep your mouth shut," Zook said.

"It's really hard to talk about something I don't believe in, said freshman Naomi Girson.

SPJ displayed what a world without free speech could look like. Other campus organizations are navigating how being a private, catholic university might affect what they are allowed to say on campus.

According to a poll developed by the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, 50% of university students nationwide said they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.

Yasmine Alrefai, the president of the Duquesne Muslim Student Association, shared how she is unsure what actions she is allowed to take on behalf of her organization, especially compared to students at public universities like the University of Pittsburgh.

"[There's a] fine line between representing an organization and your own opinions," Alrefai said. "I

don't know what I am and am not allowed to voice."

Last week, the Pitt Students for Justice in Palestine held multiple rallies in reaction to the war between Israel and Hamas.

While Duquesne organizations might not be participating in equally public demonstrations, there are still opportunities on campus for students looking for support.

Alrefai helped begin the Muslim Student Association at Duquesne as a way for students who identified with the community to seek a space on campus.

"It's new for me, too, so I'm still trying to find a way to create a voice for Muslim students on campus," she said.

With support from faculty at the Center for Diversity and Inclusion and the Division of Mission and Identity, Alrefai advocated for changes to the campus meal schedule to make it more accessible to individuals who were fasting during Ramadan last year.

This year, the Muslim Student Association is fundraising for Charity Week, and they are ending the week (on Saturday Oct. 28) with a relay race for additional fundraising and prizes for students who win.

More information about the Muslim student community and events can be found on their Instagram, @duquesnmsa.

For students like M, the Muslim Student Association provided an

opportunity to seek a community for herself.

An international doctorate student, who would like to be referred to as M to protect her identity due to the current war in Israel and Palestine, spoke about her outside perspective of freedom of speech at an American university.

"At least Americans have a stage to voice themselves," M said.

She feels that Duquesne, and the United States generally, gives her plenty of avenues for expressing herself, although she does not take advantage of them.

"I never had it," M said about free speech in her home country. "Teachers were thrown in jail for liking a Facebook post."

For this reason, M shies away from the stereotypical platforms where college students voice their opinions publicly.

Overall, however, M has had a good experience from the faculty and staff at the university who allow her to express her thoughts. She is still attempting to break barriers between her and other students.

M is social, but she feels that other students do not approach her because she looks different than them with her hijab because, to them, she "looks weird." Nonetheless, she goes out of her way to meet new people and attend social events on campus to carry on conversations with other students,

she said, even if it means catching a later city bus home.

About the Catholic tradition that Duquesne supporters, "We're actually the same," Alrefai said. Like M, she believes that students could discover how much they have in common with other religious communities if they were open to talking together.

Sophomore Hannah Litke, a member of Catholic Ministries at Duquesne and a student in the school of education, shared the same view.

"It's important to hear other people's perspective sometimes, even if you don't believe or agree with them," she said.

Another member of Catholic organizations on campus, senior Clara Bergman, attended the Pennsylvania March for Life to exercise her right to free speech through campus's Consistent Ethic of Life group, which joined Epiphany parish for their trip to Harrisburg. In the large group, she felt comfortable expressing her beliefs.

But on campus, Bergman said she holds back when she's in class.

"[I] stay more quiet in class because it's hard to read my professors and really truly believe they'd be open to me stating my beliefs," she said.

However, joining Spiritan Campus Ministry means she has "been able to speak out."

## How does Halloween look around the world?

EMILY AMBERY  
layout editor

The Center for Global Engagement hosted a "Halloween Traditions Around the World" event in the Union where students learned how different cultures celebrate Halloween's hauntings and horrors.

Elena Lazaro and Gianna Baker, peer advisors in the study abroad office, organized the event and encouraged the Duquesne community to share their own traditions for social media.

"It was rewarding to see people find out [how] other cultures celebrate their dead," Baker said. "It also made people realize their own traditions, a lot of participants went 'oh I do have special things I do for Halloween.'"

Traditions from Mexico, Nigeria, Italy and England were featured. Italy, Nigeria and Mexico emphasized

the importance of deceased loved ones and the traditions that honor them. Lazaro said that she noticed that England shares similar traditions with the United States. Both countries do a night of trick or treating, but England features a more scaled down version.

Italy's All Saint's Day, also known as Festa di Tutti i Santi, celebrates all Catholic saints. The public holiday is marked by the gathering of family, church services, public mass held by the Pope and parades with children dressed as their favorite saint.

Following All Saint's day is All Souls' Day, il Giorno dei Morti, which is celebrated in Italy on Nov. 2. To celebrate, many Italians return to the villages where they were born and bring flowers to the graves of their ancestors.

Both Lazaro and Baker studied abroad at Duquesne's Italian campus in Rome during the

spring 2023 semester.

"[Thinking globally] expands your mindset to other cultures and different ways of thinking," Lazaro said.

Nigeria hosts a similar vigil for their deceased family members every two years. Known as the Odo Festival, the Ibo people in southeastern Nigeria believe that their dead family and friends return to Earth for up to six months. Celebrations include chants, masks, special food and performances.

During the event, students were also encouraged to share their own traditions for a Dunkin Donuts munchkin.

Attendee Patty Pannga, who moved from Thailand to Pittsburgh when she was 15, noted that U.S. celebrations were more intense.

"The major difference that I see is that the majority of the people in the U.S. go crazy for decorating their houses while people in Thailand don't usually decorate their houses all like that," Pannga said.

Although Thailand does not have a celebration like Halloween, Pannga shared her favorite was giving out candy to children because that's what her boyfriend and her did for their first date.

"We don't really have any tradition for Halloween specifically," Pannga said. "However, in the middle region of Thailand around the time of Halloween, Thai people light up floating lanterns to show respect for nature and the loved ones who have passed."

Lazaro and Baker also highlighted Mexico for its Día de los Muertos tradition. This two-day celebration features offerings, yellow marigold flowers and Calaveras, the ubiquitous symbol of the festival.

Nico Gutierrez Olvera, who moved to the U.S. about four years ago, noticed the differences in Halloween and Día de los Muertos.

"For me Día de los Muertos is basically a day to remember and



COURTESY OF GIANNA BAKER

Students stopped by the second floor of the Union and left with fun facts about Halloween all over the world and a sweet treat.

celebrate those who are not with us anymore" he said. "To be honest the main difference is that most of the Mexican traditions are related to our ancestors, so I feel like we are a bit more engaged in traditions."

Despite the difference in celebration, since being in the U.S. Olvera has come to love American traditions.

"I really enjoy Halloween in the U.S., it's a completely different experience and I love wearing costumes and going out," Olvera said. "The energy is really cool and everyone is dressed up as something. They take it to the next level here."

As Pittsburgh increasingly be-

comes home to diverse cultures and traditions, the Center for Global Engagement wanted to bring that spirit to the Duquesne community, according to Lazaro and Baker.

"Pittsburgh is becoming much more of an international city. I think it's important that when we understand the cultures and traditions of a certain people, we have a better understanding of their perspective," said Mike Burke, the director of International Student Services. "Not only do we understand their perspective better, we're also broadening our own perspective."



COURTESY OF GIANNA BAKER

Students wrote down their favorite traditions like watching scary movies, haunted hayrides, costumes and chocolate as they learned about other traditions.



# Football holds on to beat SFU, 38-35

**MATTHEW THEODROS**

staff writer

The Duquesne University football team survived a thrilling nailbiter in their 38-35 win over Saint Francis on Saturday at Rooney Field.

Duquesne celebrated its yearly Homecoming and Family Weekend festivities in front of a crowd of 3,052, the highest count since the 2007 season opener.

The game was in the Dukes' hands for the

mentally sharp. When you do that you give them an opportunity to get some momentum and get back in the game."

This was a necessary win for Duquesne as their last matchup against this team resulted in a 51-14 loss, the biggest in the history of the program.

For the third time this season, Duquesne scored on the game's first drive. Darius Perrantes led a 9-play, 62-yard drive which ended in a fake handoff, 17-yard touchdown to receiver Keshawn Brown.



DYLAN FISTER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Darius Perrantes prepares for a shotgun snap in the red zone against Saint Francis on Saturday. The program's largest crowd in 16 years watches on from the grandstands of Rooney Field.

majority of the contest. A 22-point 4th quarter from Saint Francis made this a competitive battle that came down to a field goal.

Self-inflicted errors were the story of the game for Duquesne. Turnovers and sloppy play made it a game that should have been out of reach in the first half.

"It was a lack of execution that caused those," Head Coach Jerry Schmitt said. "We weren't

Perrantes has shown throughout the past few weeks how his control of the game and stability results in victory.

"His timing is getting better and better, he is doing a much better job taking those risking shots that could lead to interceptions," Schmitt said. "He is continuing to progress, and we are happy to see that."

Duquesne's Dayvia Gbor picked off a pass

from the Red Flash's Cole Doyle on the following possession, his second interception of the season.

The Dukes controlled the second quarter, scoring 21 points in the final three minutes and limiting Saint Francis to 10 points entering halftime.

On fourth and 4, Perrantes broke tackles to find his receiver DJ Powell. On the ensuing play, he found his target once again in the endzone for his second of three passing touchdowns for the day.

DU continued their offensive assault as Perrantes launched a deep ball to receiver Joey Isabella on a streak route for 69 yards. Isabella was left alone in the middle as the defensive coverage focused their efforts on Powell. Isabella posted career numbers recording 116 yards.

"I've been connected with Joey for a long time," Perrantes said. "I transferred in when he came in so we have been working a lot together. His speed is unmatched for sure. They gave him multiple chances, and he came up with it."

In the final seconds of the half, Saint Francis botched a punt attempt. Defensive back Tim Lowery scooped the loose ball and sprinted for the 15-yard touchdown.

"The A-gap was open, they weren't really worrying too much about that," Lowery said. "[The ball] ended up hitting his face mask and I saw the ball on the ground, saw an opportunity and took advantage of it."

Saint Francis continued making ill-advised errors. To open the half, redshirt freshman Scott Raymond fielded the ball but fumbled it following a tackle by Lowery.

His heroic defensive efforts were rewarded with the NEC Special Teams Player of the Week. The Dukes were not able to capitalize off the turnover and the great field position. Perrantes attempted to find Brown in the endzone but was picked off by Red Flash linebacker Mercury Swaim.

Saint Francis's Jordan Jackson ran the ball for

the score, their first offensive touchdown of the day. At the end of the third quarter, the Dukes led 31-14.

Duquesne continued its efficient offensive attack to begin the fourth quarter. Perrantes connected with Isabella once again for a gain of 41. Running back Taj Butts pushed toward the end zone for the touchdown score, his fourth of the season.

From this point forward, Saint Francis rallied the troops and began their comeback. Offensive lineman Mason Imbt pushed through the 1-yard line for the first score reducing the deficit to 17.

The Red Flash defense halted Duquesne's offense on back-to-back possessions and capitalized on their own. A blocked punt attempt by Trey McLeer resulted in a return for a 40-yard touchdown. SF trailed 38-28 with four minutes remaining.

Saint Francis received the ball with under a minute remaining. Doyle found wide receiver Jayden Ivory for a three-yard touchdown.

In a nightmare situation for the Dukes, the Red Flash recovered an onside kick with the chance to tie or win the game with a minute remaining.

With 19 seconds remaining, Saint Francis lined up for a game-tying field goal. Mac Plummer missed the kick left, allowing Duquesne to escape narrowly.

This was a crucial win for the Dukes. The 3-0 conference start for Duquesne is the best since the 2020-21 spring season.

"We had to play every second of the game," Schmitt said. "It was two different types of halves. But in the end, we got that [win], which is hard to get in the conference. You're playing the reigning champion, a really good program and I'm just so happy for the players and the coaches."

The Dukes head back to the road next Saturday as they travel to Connecticut for a matchup against Sacred Heart.

# Ekeland's wonder goal proves to be winner

**MICHAEL O'GRADY**

staff writer

Approaching the end of their regular season, the Duquesne men's soccer team picked up an important point at Fordham on Saturday before securing a victory in their last non-conference game versus Wright State Wednesday night.

The Dukes headed east level with Fordham at 10 points in the Atlantic-10 Conference standings, both teams positioned towards the bottom of the eight-team conference tournament bracket. A 1-1 draw following the ninety minutes prompted no change in the standings, but it took a huge effort for Duquesne to get that result.

Fordham bombarded the Dukes in the first half, taking 10 shots before Duquesne managed any. It would be Duquesne on the scoresheet first, however, as late in the first half Nate Dragisich fed Jayden Da, who scored his seventh goal on the year on just the Dukes' second shot. Duquesne would be in their own half for the rest of the night, however, allowing 14 more shots. Zoltan Nagy saved four of the five that were in on goal, but the Rams equalized with 6 minutes to go courtesy of Daniel D'Ippolito. Having lost the shots battle 24-5, the Dukes were lucky to leave the Bronx with a point and keep place in the standings.

Duquesne was allowed a break from the A-10 grind Wednesday night with their last non-con-

ference match. Hosting Wright State, they pulled out an important team win by a score of 3-2, highlighted by a Wayne Rooney-esque strike from Ask Ekeland.

Duquesne Head Coach Chase Brooks felt the game was an opportunity to spread minutes around the squad.

"We used a lot of the roster, we got some guys some minutes that hadn't seen some time this year yet, including Johnny Dragisich, who played the first minutes of his career."

Dragisich came on for the first time on the same night his brother Nate broke the program record for appearances with 78. Johnny, for his part, would end up making a crucial tackle in the final minutes.

The Dukes controlled early on, breaking through at the seventh minute when Tate Mohney found the back of the net for the first time this season from just outside the box. Two minutes later, another Duquesne goal was negated for offsides, and only then did Wright State put up any meaningful pushback. Nagy's best save of the night came during this Raider offensive, deflecting a ball out of play that was destined to go top-shelf.

At 18 minutes, Wright State pressed too much and Ekeland forced a turnover, clearing the ball downfield intended for a streaking Mohney. Side-stepping his lone defender, Mohney placed his

second of the game in the bottom right corner. It was also Ekeland's second assist of the night, but he wasn't done.

Duquesne looked like they would cruise to a 2-0 win early in the second half, but in the 61st minute Ekeland caught the crowd off guard and got them on their feet with his team-leading ninth goal of the campaign, and perhaps his best one yet. With a lightning-quick takeaway at midfield, he launched a rocket from 45 yards out, and before anyone knew what had happened, the ball hit twine with quite a bit of air still under it.

"I've been trying a couple times now to shoot from far away if I see the goalie out of his place," Ekeland said.

He had seemingly closed the book on the game with the goal, but Wright State battled back. The Raiders answered eight minutes later on a Brock Pickett header and scored on a Reece Allbaugh penalty in the 80th minute. With seconds to go, Allbaugh threw away a good chance by firing the ball into the side of the net, and Duquesne once again escaped a less-than-ideal result.

"Clearly there's still some things we'd like to clean up, we don't wanna give up two goals late in the game," Brooks admitted. "But again, we've talked about all season how you're allowed to bend, you just can't break, and I think we saw that tonight and held on for the win."

Duquesne has clinched a spot in the A-10 playoffs but has no idea what that could mean. They can finish as high as second in the conference and as low as eighth.

"We're really excited about it," Brooks said, "it's just about playing for home field, and that's what we're gonna do. We're gonna try and take care of business and see what happens in the other games."

The Dukes will play the all-important final game of the regular season Saturday night at Rooney Field when they take on La Salle.



BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Ask Ekeland marches inside the Wright State penalty box. His 45-yard goal proved the winner.



# WSOC wins to make A-10 Tourney

SEAN MCKEAN  
staff writer

With a spot in the Atlantic-10 Conference tournament on the line, the Duquesne women's soccer team defeated the Richmond Spiders with a score of 3-0. The victory propels them to a quarterfinal matchup against UMass on Friday night.

As the Richmond game began, neither team decisively took control of the ball. Other than a wide shot across the field from Mackenzie Muir and a close penalty shot from Richmond's Molly Wierman, the first 10 minutes were characterized by constant changes in possession.

However, miscommunication in Richmond's defense led to Duquesne gaining clear possession of the ball. The Dukes took advantage of it as much as they could, with shots from Jayden Sharpless and Libby Majka coming two seconds apart. Both shots missed the net.

Following these shots, though, it was back to how it started, with possession constantly changing. With no scores coming within the first 25 minutes of the game, it was clear this would be a defensive-minded battle.

After a batch of substitutions for both teams at the 26-minute mark, the match became a much different story. The Dukes began to take possession more decisively, which led to a header from forward Maya Matesa, a high shot from Sharpless and a blocked shot by Muir, but — as has been the story — their shots failed to result in goals.

As the first half came to a close, the Dukes put up a few more shots, with a very close one from Lindsay Krafchick barely miss-

ing the net. Ultimately though, the first half would end with a score of 0-0.

Upon the beginning of the second half, the Richmond Spiders came out of the locker room explosively, making a charge toward the goal. But a shot did not end up materializing out of the tussle in the box.

Once the Dukes warmed back up, it went back to more of the same: a defensive battle

ger, however, as a corner kick from Muir turned into a goal from Jayden Sharpless at the 55-minute mark, bringing them up by one.

When asked about the goal that gave the Dukes their first score, Sharpless credited it to a quite simple corner kick strategy.

"We always practice corners, but it's not a specific thing we work on," she said.



MARY GENRICH | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Duquesne celebrates one of three goals that brought them into the Atlantic-10 tournament.

combined with constant jockeying of possession. Though two more shots were put up by Muir, her attempts swung a bit too high and wide respectively.

The Dukes did not have to wait much lon-

"We just hope we can get it to the back of the net, considering the tall girls we have. We always use that to our advantage."

Following the goal, the Spiders started to fight back, gaining more control of the ball on

offense. Though they got a few opportunities by virtue of corner and penalty kicks, Richmond couldn't find their way toward the net. However, Duquesne managed to gain possession back, and once they did, another corner kick from Muir led to a header from Anna Campanella at the 63-minute mark, making the score 2-0.

After their insurance goal, the Dukes kept the momentum going, achieving yet another goal from Anna Bundy in the 71st minute, putting the Dukes up by three.

Even after getting another goal, Duquesne kept pressure on the Spiders, maintaining dominant possession. Following her goal, Bundy tried another shot from the box, but it did not result in another goal.

As the game came to a close, Richmond tried to get a goal on the board, taking advantage of fouls and yellow cards against Duquesne. However, a combination of the Dukes' defense and goalkeeper Maddy Neundorfer's saves meant that a Spiders goal would not happen, and the game ended with a score of 3-0.

Following the game, Duquesne Head Coach Al Alvine was quick to comment on how proud he was of his team.

"This inspires a lot of confidence," Alvine said. "We have a young team and finished fifth in the conference two years in a row. That demonstrates consistency, and consistency breeds confidence."

With their first game in the tournament against UMass coming up, Alvine remained confident in his team's ability to step up to the situation.

"We have every reason to think we can make some noise in this tournament. We're ready to rock and roll."

## Dukes in the rankings

A-10 Men's Soccer Standings:  
(Top eight teams advance to conference tournament)

Rank	Team	Conf.	Pts.	Overall
1.	Davidson	5-2-0	15	9-3-1
2.	Saint Louis	4-1-2	14	8-4-3
3.	VCU	4-1-2	14	4-5-5
4.	UMass	4-2-1	13	7-4-5
5.	Loyola Chicago	3-1-3	12	7-2-4
6.	Dayton	3-2-2	11	6-2-7
7.	<b>Duquesne</b>	3-2-2	11	6-6-3
8.	Dayton	2-1-4	10	5-6-5
9.	St. Bonaventure	2-4-1	7	6-6-4
10.	George Mason	2-4-1	7	5-6-3
11.	Saint Joseph's	2-4-1	7	4-11-1
12.	La Salle	1-4-2	5	5-7-4
13.	Rhode Island	1-4-2	5	4-6-5
14.	George Washington	1-5-1	4	3-9-4

(All games are played on the campus of the higher seed. Teams will be reseeded after the quarterfinal round.)



Northeast Conference Football Standings

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall
1.	<b>Duquesne</b>	3-0	4-3
2.	Merrimack	3-1	4-3
3.	Saint Francis U	2-2	2-5
4.	Stonehill	2-2	3-4
5.	Wagner	2-2	2-5
6.	Central Conneticut	1-2	3-4
7.	LIU	1-2	1-6
8.	Sacred Heart	1-4	1-7

A-10 Women's Soccer Tournament:

Seed	Teams	Seed	Teams
1.	Saint Louis	4.	UMass
8.	VCU	5.	<b>Duquesne</b>

Seed	Teams	Seed	Teams
2.	La Salle	3.	Dayton
7.	Rhode Island	6.	Saint Joseph's

### This day in Duquesne sports history:

Oct. 26, 2019:

Football came back from a 14-0 deficit to beat Wagner, 28-24. In the victory, running back A.J. Hines scored the 42nd rushing touchdown of his career, which set the program record. He finished his career with 44 rushing touchdowns, a record that stands today. Jerry Schmitt tied the program record with his 97th win as head coach. He now has 113 wins and counting.



## Taylor Swift's "Era's Tour" terrorizes theaters

KAYLA DENKE  
staff writer

American songwriter and singer Taylor Swift shocked the world in November of 2022 when she announced her 10-act, 44 song tour: The Eras Tour.

Each era represents a different album from her musical career, which began in 2004.

From her 2006 self-titled debut album to her most recently released "Midnights" (2022), Swift has made a show that spans more than three hours, enchanting her fans and taking over pop culture.

Due to limited space and soaring ticket prices, only a fraction of her loyal "Swifties" were able to attend in cities nearby.

On Oct. 13, about two months after the U.S. leg of the tour ended, Swift released a cinematic rendition of her live performance.

Fans from across the world who have watched the tour from a glitchy livestream all summer long finally got their chance to see the concert.

While the film experience still pales in comparison to many fans who are still riding the FOMO of not getting to see Swift live, others were ecstatic to experience the high-definition vi-



EMILY FRITZ | A&E EDITOR

Swift was in the Pittsburgh area in early June. She was met with crowds surpassing Acrisure Stadium's capacity, as some watched from Point Park.

suals and sound.

"The film surpassed my expectations, it was so fun and immersive; I think the cinematography was done really well which made it feel like you were actually watching the concert," said Duquesne sophomore Heleyna Pentuk.

Despite some songs being ex-

cluded from the original set list, moviegoers were eager to engage with the film.

Many have taken to social media to share the phenomenal behavior of Swifties in the theater, dancing, singing and chanting along as if they were in Acrisure Stadium.

Among the songs left behind, Pentuk was most disappointed that "The Archer" was cut.

Attending AMC Theaters, Pentuk participated in bracelets trading and many viewers were dressed up in elaborate outfits, as if they were attending the show in person.

Some theaters boasted photo booths, and theaters everywhere sold theater-exclusive merchandise decorated with the eras, including souvenir cups, popcorn buckets and posters.

Although the movie has only been in theaters for 13 days, Swift has already broken box-office records, making \$95 million in the United States and Canada alone and out-performing any other film made by a musical artist.

Dr. Sarah DeIuliis, Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication & Rhetorical Studies at Duquesne Univer-

sity, has not seen the film but expresses routine interest in the marketing of Swift's "The Eras Tour" product.

One thing that stood out to her was how Swift decided to put this film in theaters as opposed to her other films that are located on Netflix ("Miss Americana" and "Taylor Swift Reputation Stadium Tour") and Disney+ ("Folklore: The Long Pond Studio Sessions").

She mentioned the marketing for this film is different than often seen: it showcases the power of music and emotional resonance.

Swift is also known for dropping numerous "Easter eggs," or clues toward her next big project or release.

Whether it is in a music video, special semantics in an Instagram caption or even an outfit for an award show, Swifties are tuned and quick to analyze everything that the pop queen produces.

Pentuk has seen the concert in person and in theaters.

"As I was watching the movie, it was almost like I was seeing it for the first time again because of all the details I missed [at the concert]," she said.



COURTESY OF HELEyna PENTUK  
Pentuk (pictured) was among the fans who dressed for the film.



KAYLA DENKE | STAFF WRITER

Similar to the live concert, exclusive souvenir merchandise was available for theatergoers, including popcorn buckets and beverage cups.

## CAMPUS EVENTS

Halloween Dance Social  
Oct. 26 @ 7 p.m.

Join the Ballroom Association in the Union Ballroom and dance til you drop. Costumes encouraged, experience not required.

Horror Movie Marathon  
Oct. 27 @ 7 p.m.

Watch Halloween horror movies in Towers MPR ...if you dare!

Costume Karaoke  
Oct. 28 @ 8 p.m.

Head to Towers MPR for warm apple cider, spooky sweets and terrifying tunes!

Boo Bash  
Oct. 30 @ 9 p.m.

Join the ASL Club in the NiteSpot to learn scary seasonal signs.

Monster Mash  
Oct. 31 @ 12 p.m.

Ghoulish goodies and activities await on the 3rd Floor of the Student Union.

## EMILY'S EPIPHANIES

Pick Ourselves Up

"And why do we fall down, Bruce?  
So we can learn to  
pick ourselves back up."

~ "Batman Begins" (2005)

Perseverance and resilience are two of the most valuable skills any of us can learn.

Life is full of trials and errors,  
of triumphs and tumult.

Do not covet those with seemingly perfect fortune, for they have yet to learn how to try a new angle or to take a brief rest before trying again.

You are strong.  
You are capable.  
You are resilient.  
You are persevereate.

Whether you're coming back from a bad midterm grade, picking up the pieces of your heart after a bad breakup, or simply picking yourself up off the sidewalk, I am cheering for you to gently pick yourself back up.

— Emily Fritz

### Aquarius ♒

What are you doing?  
Basking in my misery.

### Pisces ♓

She's reigning supreme in the fiery abyss.

### Aries ♈

That's it.  
You've lost your liver privileges.

### Taurus ♉

Chocolate is a salad.  
It's beans.

### Gemini ♊

Stone cold Bob Duncan has entered the chat.

### Cancer ♋

I don't really need to know about the floating cheese.

### Leo ♌

"I'm going to attack you."  
Uh...Have you considered that I'm going to be extra nice?

### Virgo ♍

I've never seen clouds sit on the ground before.

### Libra ♎

Moths are the raccoons of pandas.

### Scorpio ♏

Moving to PR?  
Moving to Puerto Rico or Public Relations?

### Sagittarius ♐

Like, 'Happy October,'  
a ghost is going to pee on you.

### Capricorn ♑

Oh God, the goat is back.





Spooky good tips for spooky good Halloween thrifting

NATALIE RODRIGUEZ  
staff writer

We all know about the scariest part of Halloween: the crazy costume prices! Halloween only comes once a year, so why spend upward of \$50-100 for a costume you only wear once?

That’s where thrifting comes in — not only can it save you money, but it can also have a positive effect on the environment.

Oct. 31 is right around the corner, but there’s still time to find the perfect last-minute costume.

Pittsburgh is home to dozens of thrift stores with unique, “boo-tiful” ensembles to rock at your next Halloween party.

Thrifting is also a way to ensure that your costume is unique and personal to your style.

Were you a fan of the Barbie Movie? The most popular movies often manifest themselves into popular Halloween costumes.

Why spend \$60 on a costume from Spirit Halloween when you can find a unique pink outfit that you can wear again? Fast fashion causes waste, and Halloween costumes are no different.

Every year, thousands of clothes get thrown in landfills and cause harm to our environment.

Thrifting allows for clothes and items to have a new life in an affordable way.

“In 2022 alone, we kept over 56 million pounds of material out of landfills through thrift

Betten has served as costume designer for Duquesne’s theater group, The Red Masquers, for

new pieces,” said Betten.

She also had a few other tips for first-time thrifters.



EMMA POLEN | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Culture Shop on East Carson Street (pictured) is one of many thrift shops in Pittsburgh. Culture Shop specializes in jewelry, incense and handmade goods — all of which make for great Halloween accessories.

store sales, repurposing and recycling,” said Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania on their website.

If you’re new to thrifting or costume shopping, Red Masquers President Susie Betten has the solution for you.

three years.

She knows the ins and outs of navigating costume thrifting.

“We reuse what we have before we go out and buy anything new. We always ask the actors if they have pieces from their own closet, and then we go thrifting for

Know Where to Shop

Duquesne is one shuttle ride away from some of the best thrifting in Pittsburgh. For the Masquer’s current production, “Deathtrap,” Betten and fellow costume designers stopped at a few places to find inspiration for

the show.

“Our go-to’s are usually the Salvation Army and the Goodwill, and for fun specialty pieces, we like to look at the Buffalo Exchange,” she said.

“And Goodwill always does a really great job of putting out cool Halloween costumes, so you never know what you’ll find.”

Have a Game Plan

Thrifting can seem overwhelming, but Betten suggests coming in with a plan to create a new look.

“If you know you want to be a Pirate, what pieces would a pirate have? I want a flowy white shirt and a rough-hemmed brown skirt. You should have very basic pieces in your head, but you should be open to other options, so you don’t feel so boxed in,” Betten recommended.

Have an Open Mind

Thrift stores can feel like a treasure hunt for new items, but you have to be open to trying new things.

Going with friends can be helpful, so you have people to bounce ideas off of.

Don’t let thrifting scare you. Feel free to be adventurous and experiment with your wardrobe this Halloween.

Your wallet and the environment will thank you.

Eerie-sistable Halloween Treats

Recipe by Emma Polen



Wow your friends with these *deadly delicious* Halloween-themed treats. Whatever chocolate you decide to decorate with will end up with a monster-filled finish. Try white chocolate for a mummy-inspired look, or dark chocolate for a vampire or furry monster face.

Ingredients

Chocolate-covered pretzels

- 1/2 bag (6 oz) white OR semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 3 C mini pretzels *\*I prefer Snyder's*
- (Optional) miniature candy eyeballs *\*You can find these at craft stores or on Amazon.*
- (Optional) candy corn

Chocolate-covered strawberries

- 1 bag (12 oz) white OR semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 carton washed & dried fresh strawberries
- (Optional) miniature candy eyeballs *\*You can find these at craft stores or on Amazon.*

Instructions

1. Lay out pretzels/strawberries on a dry, non-stick plate.
2. Pour about 3/4 of the chocolate chips into a microwave safe bowl.
3. Microwave for 2-3 minutes until melted, stirring the mixture every 30 seconds.
4. Once the chocolate is fully melted and smooth, dip the strawberries/pretzels face-down into the chocolate.
5. Lay the chocolate-dipped treats back onto the non-stick dish, chocolate-covered side up.
6. Let cool and harden for about 5-10 minutes. *\*white chocolate takes less time to cool than semi-sweet chocolate chips*
7. Pour the remaining amount of chocolate chips into the microwave-safe bowl.
8. Melt the chocolate in the microwave for about half the time it took for the larger portion of the bag.
9. Once the chocolate is melted, pour it from the bowl into a sandwich-size plastic Ziploc bag.
10. Close the top of the bag and twist the bag until it resembles a piping bag for cake icing.
11. Cut the bottom tip of the plastic bag, creating a small opening for piping the chocolate.
12. Pipe the chocolate in a back and forth motion over the cooled chocolate-covered strawberries/pretzels.
13. Add additional toppings, including candy eyes and candy corn if desired.
14. Let the treats dry at room temperature until ready to serve.







## THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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“Evil has  
only the  
power that  
we give it.”

Ray Bradbury

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

@TheDuquesneDuke

## EDITORIAL POLICY

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

### Letters policy

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

### Corrections/clarifications

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

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# OPINIONS



COURTESY OF HANNAH PETERS

Duquesne Student Hannah Peters has enjoyed many beautiful moments with her mother.

## People are so much more than the medical conditions they have

What if I told you that a person with diabetes is not a diabetic? What would you think if I said that a person who is addicted to opioids is not an addict?

It's not as backward as it sounds.

Disabilities, diseases and health conditions touch everyone. Considering a disability is defined by having any sort of limiting condition, it is nearly guaranteed that you will spend at least part of your lifetime with a type of disability or know someone that has one.

In fact, more than 26% of adult Americans have a type of disability, 45% of Americans have at least one chronic disease and 22% of U.S. adults live with a mental illness, according to the National Institutes of Health.

Maybe a family member comes to mind, or perhaps only a co-worker or mutual friend – the fact of the matter is that people living with disadvantages are all around us, and sometimes we don't even know it.

I didn't know it.

One of the most important people in my life, my mom, suffered from substance use disorder, PTSD and bipolar disorder and for a large part of my life. I had no idea.

When I look back at that time, I wish I had been aware of the ways to help and encourage her, to show her that her condition has no effect on what she means to me.

This is where we arrive at what's known as 'Person-First Language' (PFL), a type of approach to the language used surrounding people with disabilities, diseases or health conditions. This term refers to the approach of placing the person ahead of a diagnosis.

This means referring to individuals by their personhood first and condition second. For example, the preferred phrasing would be 'person who is disabled' instead of 'a disabled person.'

By orienting a person through what condition they "have" rather than what they "are," it acknowledges that a particular disability, disease or condition does not define a whole person, just a part of them.

It may not seem very significant, but this kind of language could be the difference between a person feeling accepted, seen or valued and a person feeling rejected, shamed or unworthy.

Take the substance use (the preferred term for addiction) community as an example. The terms often associated with this group carry powerful stigmas. These misconceptions are harmful and counterproductive to recovery, hurting those who have experienced addiction and their loved ones alike.

Perhaps you think it's justified by their unhealthy behaviors or

been more accepting and sensitive to my mom's struggles. She may not have had to fight those demons alone if she had felt accepted. Witnessing first-hand the pain that comes with the insensitivity when people are careless with their words has consequences. Consequences that likely prolonged her recovery journey.

So, pertaining to people struggling with substance abuse, person-first language helps recognize the humanity of others ahead of all else. According to a study from the American Psychological Association, "Experiences of stigma led to internalized stigma, which influenced self-esteem and recovery-related outcomes."

If you knew that your choice of words had a direct impact on someone's chances of finding help and recovering, would you think twice before saying them? Incorporating PFL into one's dialogue is not a simple and easy feat - the words we use become a habit that's hard to break. Perfection is not expected, but a continuous effort is necessary.

One way to think about it is through the similar efforts being made in the LGBTQ community concerning pronouns, and if that phenomenon proves anything, it's that change is possible. However, it is also crucial to note that, akin to what the pronoun movement preaches, preference matters. While PFL is widely advocated for, certain groups have expressed they don't always favor this approach.

These cases show up mainly in the deaf and autistic communities, where some have shown preference for identity-first language. These individuals feel that their condition cannot be separated from who they are and is therefore something to take pride in. The best way to know is to ask, but if preference is not known, it's best to err on the side of person-first language.

The good news? Awareness is the first step, and if you've made it this far, then you're already there.



HANNAH PETERS

staff writer

that shame is somehow effective, but the reality is that stigma is damaging and counterproductive to recovery. Not only is it hurtful for those who have experienced addiction and their loved ones alike, but it also discourages people from seeking help.

Terms as simple as 'addict' hold an image that reflect disgrace, contributing to a stigma that only works against the community. And that's not even mentioning the ones like 'drugie,' 'junkie' or 'crackhead.'

Hearing how people talk about and describe those with substance use disorder often makes me question if they would be judgmental of my family.

It's hard not to wonder what would be different if people had

## STAFF EDITORIAL

### Getting to know the newest speaker

After waiting more than three weeks, the American people finally have a new elected speaker of the House, Mike Johnson. The Louisiana Representative was able to secure the 56th speaker position by winning 220 to 209 votes. Johnson, the fourth and final choice for the Republicans, has his work cut out for him as his party enjoys a narrow majority of the House, holding 221 of the 435 seats.

Johnson made headlines in 2021 when the *New York Times* called him "the most important architect of the Electoral College Objections" for attempting to get Trump back into the White House despite losing to current President Joe Biden. His plan to get Trump into the office fell to the wayside in the wake of the Jan. 6 insurrection.

Johnson may not be part of the Freedom Caucus, but his political rhetoric — coupled with his religious zealotry — makes the members of the LGBTQ community rather nervous.

The newest speaker was once the chief counsel of the Freedom Guard, a nonprofit constitutional law organization that believes that the Earth is, according to their website, 6,000 to 10,000 years old, in accordance with a quite literal interpretation of the Genesis creation account.

According to the Susan B Anthony Pro-Life America website, Johnson earns an "A+" rating for his work as a senior legal counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund.

His resume also includes the Alliance Defending Freedom, an organization the Southern Law Poverty Center designated as a "hate group." Just last week, NPR reported that the Alliance Defending Freedom group is "an activist legal group that works through the courts where it's been very successful."

The report credited the group for winning conservative-favored decisions in court cases. The cases included employer-sponsored health insurance to exclude birth control, a roll-back for limitations on religious organizations' government support, blockage against pandemic-related public health rules and a baker given the right to refuse a cake for a same sex wedding.

The third in line for president believes the world is only 10,000 years old and climate change does not exist. He has actively worked to take away the rights from certain groups in this country under the guise of Christianity.

The hope is that the democrats who were able to watch the Republican party erupt in chaos for nearly a month used this time to come up with a strategic plan to keep Johnson and the he leads at bay.



## Less candy canes and more candy corn

**ZACH PETROFF**  
opinions editor

I will never forget my first horror genre book, “Say Cheese and Die” by R.L. Stine, from the Goosebumps series. The book told the tale of a possessed polaroid camera that would take prophetic pictures with an unfortunate twist. When I turned the last page, ending with one of Stine’s classic cliffhangers, that was when I knew I wanted to be a writer.

My fascination with horror grew from there. My grandmother made a deal with me that she would buy me a new book after I was done reading the previous one. It was a deal she would likely (but never admittedly) regret as my nose seemed to be cemented inside of books.

I was hooked. My father would have to install a clip-on lamp on my bunk-bed to avoid keeping my step brother awake as I plunged through horrific tales deep into the night.

It was not long before I graduated to more mature reading material. I became fascinated with horror writers such as Stephen King, Anne Rice, Peter Straub and H.G. Wells. Every trip to the video store consisted of at least one rental of a slightly non-age-appropriate horror movie.

For an awkward, nerdy kid, Halloween was a sanctuary. It was the time of year that I felt people understood my fascina-

tion with the bizarre. While others find comfort in the more traditional holidays, like singing Christmas carols, I cannot help but get that fuzzy feeling when the leaves start to die as an indication for the upcoming All Hallow’s Eve.

It is about time that we, as a country and a culture, give Halloween the recognition it deserves to become a federal holiday.

There is a case to be made that Halloween might be one of the most inclusive holidays on the American calendar. There is no real religious requirement to observe the holiday. Sure, the Catholic religion observes Halloween as All Souls Day, just before All Saints Day on Nov. 1. All Souls Day commemorates the faithfully departed, but the true essence of Halloween, in American culture, is free from any religious affiliation.

Unlike other federal holidays, like Columbus days, there is not a repositing of history or shameful backstory that drives protest for the removal of that holiday’s namesake. Halloween may be about skeletons, but not the type that live in colonialists’ closet.

And while holidays are often steeped in tradition, such as serving turkey or watching your uncle down his fourth Martini while he berates his third wife in front of everyone before dinner is served, Halloween offers a level of variety. There is no one single culturally-acceptable way to celebrate. Kids have the opportunity to

trick-or-treat, while older kids have the opportunity to cause mischief around the neighborhood. If social outings are your thing, Halloween parties are an excellent way to celebrate with family and friends. If the combination of social anxiety and fear of missing out has you burdened down, put on a mask and enjoy the company of others in anonymity.

If your idea of celebrating the holiday is staying home, nothing is more “Halloween” than turning the lights off, stealing a young person’s candy stash and staying up late to watch scary movies. A night with Freddy, Jason or the little girl from “Poltergeist” is still a perfectly acceptable way to celebrate the holiday.

For the thrill seekers out looking to get their adrenaline pumping, what better way to celebrate the holiday than by paying to have the ever-living-crap scared out of you? Not only do haunted houses promote local businesses and artists, one can only truly feel alive when they feel like they are about to die.

Also, let’s keep in mind that there is a lot more pressure that comes with most other federal holidays. There is not large meal to prepare or holiday than most other federal holidays. There is no pressure from your other family members hammering on why you are in your early-mid-30s and still not married.

In addition, Halloween has the abil-

ity to still be romantic while avoiding the societal pressure of a Valentine’s Day or a News Year’s Day. There are limited – if not reasonable – expectations on Oct. 31, but there are few things more romantic than a synchronized pairing of costumes. I’ll take dressing up as Jim and Pam from “The Office” over spending a cold February evening at an expensive dinner watching the disappointment in her eyes.

Halloween truly celebrates the best at what this world offers, creativity and a vigor of life. Under the guise of spookiness and the undead, the fall holiday ignites the imagination. The true meaning of Halloween is not fear, but underneath the dead bodies and monsters is a celebration of life. This ultimately means that Halloween should be a federal holiday in order for people from all cultural, religious and familial backgrounds to participate in.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Horror Author Stephen King could be the mascot for federalization of Halloween.

## The culture shock of an open casket

**ELIYAHU GASSON**  
staff writer

Last week my great grandmother, a true matriarch and a bedrock for my family, died at the age of 88. She was patient, intelligent and caring. Her house always served as a refuge for us when we needed a place to get away from whatever undue stress we had. She was a pillar of her community, attended church every week and would take the time to prepare food in its kitchen for people when they needed it most.

Growing up, my family would visit her during the holidays. Despite our religious differences — she, a devout Lutheran and us, Jewish — our annual holiday visits were a cherished tradition. There was never, as far as I could tell, a hint of tension; we exchanged gifts and ate whatever she had prepared.

A more vivid and recent memory I’ve had of her was a phone call we shared. I needed to interview someone over the age of 80 about what media they consumed in their youth. I learned that her favorite song was “If I Knew You Were Coming I’d Have Baked a Cake” by Eileen Barton and that the first movies she had ever seen was Disney’s “Song of the South” at 11 years old.

Slowly the conversation shifted from the media to her young life in general. She lived through World War II. She told me about the times her father would check on the neighbors to ensure they were following black out protocols in case the Germans bombed Northwest Ohio. She would can rabbit meat and vegetables they grew in their garden to cope with rationing. She and her siblings would gather up

any nylon and rubber they didn’t need to donate to the war effort.

All this is to say that I knew her best by her heart and her mind. She was someone I could always reach out to if I needed comfort, advice or just a story.



COURTESY OF ELIYAHU GASSON

Duquesne Student Eliyahu Gasson as a blonde baby with his mother. Great grandmother, Marilyn Brown is pictured on the far right.

When I first heard that she had died, I was heartbroken just like anyone else in my position. The build up to the funeral was full of wrought emotions. The ride to Toledo was somber. I knew what to expect as I had also gone to the funeral of my great grandfather in 2015. Now, however, I was a different person with a more developed conscience.

I thought I was prepared for what was to come. “It would feel the same as the last one,” I thought. A viewing

followed by a church service and a luncheon. I was not ready, as it turned out.

I waited for hours in the kitchen at the funeral chapel. Members of the family were gathering into the viewing room in generational order leaving my siblings, my cousins and I to

wit was laid out before me with neither.

I was and still am in shock. My gut reaction was to question why anyone had thought it was a good idea to display the corpses of someone who meant so much to all of us. Was it some kind of way to manipulate us all into crying?

Looking back on the experience and talking it over with my family and other people that I respect, I have come to the conclusion that a major part of it came down to family and religious traditions.

I am one of six Jews on my mother’s side of the family. That being the case, my religious beliefs differ greatly from theirs especially in how to treat the loss of life. In Judaism there really is no funeral service. People will pray with the body after death, but at no point is it put on public display.

The grieving process is also a more intimate affair, with members of the community visiting the home of the bereaved with food. I suppose my gut reaction was a sort of culture shock.

I respect my Christian family’s decision to hold an open casket viewing and I can appreciate that the goal is to aid in the grieving process. Regardless, I cannot rationalize the practice. I still ask what good seeing the lifeless body of a loved one does for somebody. After all, what value do we get from each other if not from our mutual interactions?

You cannot hold a conversation with a corpse. You cannot share a meal or exchange jokes. All you can do is cry at the sight of them. Now that will be the last memory of my great grandmother, crying beside her dead body.

As I close this article out, I realized that through the writing process, I have gone through all five stages of grief.



# Curated ghost stories or factual warnings?

**KAITLIN HUGHES**  
staff writer

With Halloween upon us, it is the perfect time to recollect the hauntings that have occurred within the city of Pittsburgh.

For Duquesne's archivist and curator of special collections, Tom White, this is a busy season full of sharing local occult narratives with surrounding communities.

White, who has a passion for the weird and supernatural, has been professionally collecting ghost stories and legends since 1999. He has also published a vast amount of cursed tales that elevate the eeriness of the season.

Among his most extensive research has been the steel mills, which are notorious for their ghostly activity thanks to their historic significance to the Pittsburgh area and their dangerous working conditions.

"Ghost stories can also carry warnings about what is socially acceptable at a time," White said. "What is perceived danger, it may not necessarily be real danger but the perceived danger."

The hazardous environment of the mills led to cautionary tales in the form of ghost stories.

## Ghost in the Mill

Jim Grabowski was an immigrant steel worker in the 1920s. He worked at the Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation's Two Shop in the South Side.

The working conditions were hot. Large vats of molten steel at high temperatures lined the floors of the mill. There was scaffolding that allowed employees to work on the high ceilings to check for impurities below.

Workers were required to wear a heat suit due to the dangerous temperatures at the top of the building.

One day, Grabowski was working at the top of the scaffolding in scorching heat. He looked over the railing, doing the daily impurity check, when he tripped over a rigging hose, causing him to plummet into one of the vats of molten steel.

Due to the heat, his body turned to plasma before it even hit the vat. By the time Grabowski's body made it to the steel, he was completely dissolved.

Though disturbing, this was a common event that occurred at the mill. The working circumstances of the mills were more treacherous than one can comprehend.

In 1907, there were up to 7,000 steel mill casualties, solely in Pittsburgh. There were procedures put into place to deal with these specific incidents.

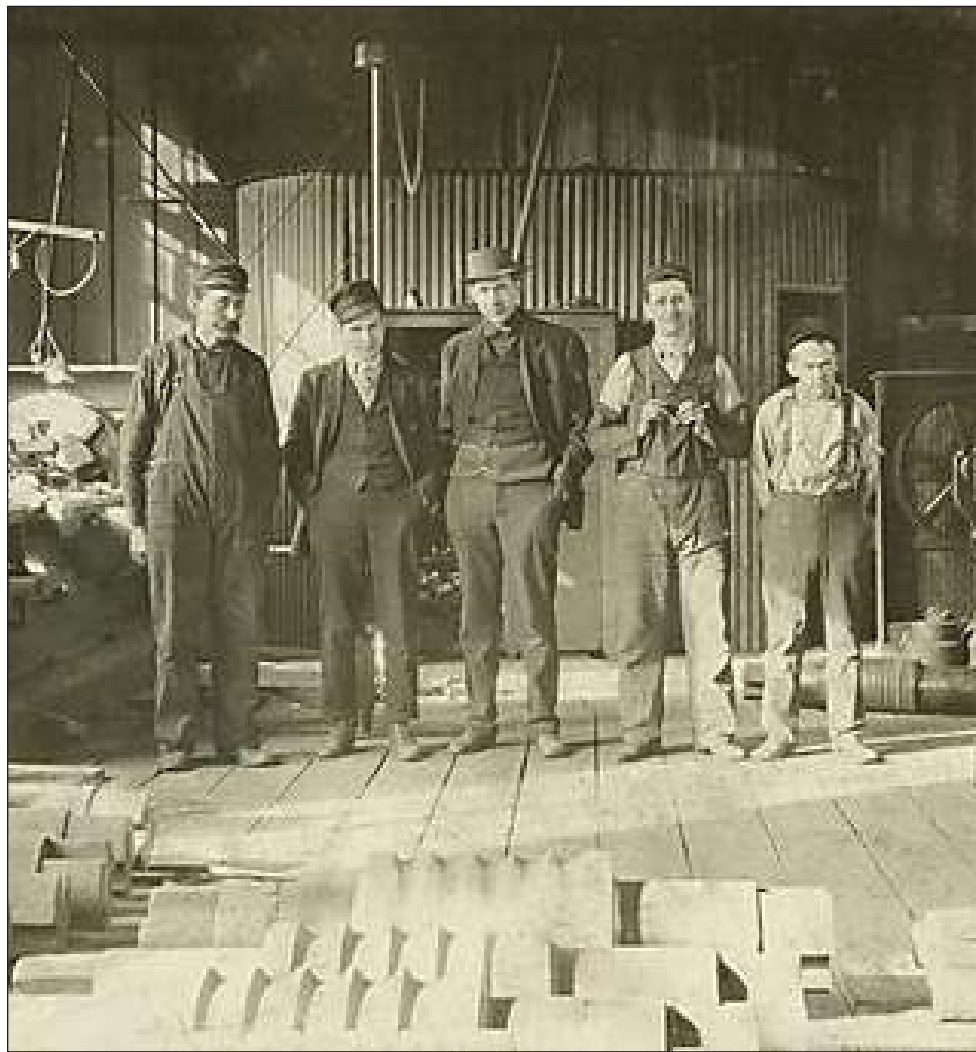
The entire contents of the vat containing human remains had to be cooled and removed from the facility.

There was a graveyard designated specifically to hold the consequences of these accidents, which resulted in several deaths per year.

Additionally, the victim's families were given a nugget of this steel so it could be properly buried.

After the prime production of weaponry diminished at the end of the Second World War, Two Shop was repurposed to help rebuild structures around the city.

Found in the corner of the mill was a forgotten block of steel—a block of steel containing Grabowski's remains from his



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE DETRE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

A J&L Steel Company Roll Shop Crew in 1908. Found in the Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation Photographs of the Detre Library and Archives, Heinz History Center.

tragic death—that was never transported to the Mills graveyard where it was supposed to be laid to rest.

In the midst of repurposing the mill, Grabowski's steel was cut up to be used in a project. When the piece was severed, it is believed that Grabowski's ghost was released.

According to multiple accounts, Grabowski's ghost, a white, pale and melted figure, now haunts the J&L mill. Hysterical screams and cries, allegedly coming from Grabowski, were reported by numerous workers inside Two Shop.

The sound of his feet slamming against the ground has also been reported, and it is believed that he continues to run through the factory and through the walls.

Grabowski's ghost enjoyed tormenting the rigging crew because it was one of their own rigging hoses that took his life. The crew was forced to walk around the building instead of quickly passing through the scaffolding because of the ghostly torture.

About 30% of the workers at the time believed the ghost was real.

Grabowski was a real person. Hundreds of men died the same way he did.

Some say the ghost of Grabowski is a way to remember those who died in this tragic way as well as serve as a cautionary tale used to impose fear onto new workers.

While the story might be used as more of a local tale than anything historical, on multiple different occasions, people have claimed to see the same distorted figure of Grabowski running amok in the mill.

## Slag Pile Annie

The Jones and Laughlin Mill's Hazelwood plant is home to another of Pittsburgh's phantom citizens.

A Pitt student came upon a strange figure while working as a hopper cart

driver who shoveled the remnants of steel from the mill.

The figure was a woman wearing work clothes and a bandana and standing much too close to the area where the crew was pouring molten steel. However, when the student alerted the woman that she was in the danger zone, she responded eerily.

She said, "I can't get killed, I'm already dead."

The student thought there was a crazy person on the loose, and he decided to tell the foreman, but according to the foreman, this was not the first time Slag Pile Annie had been spotted in the area.

Annie worked as a steel slag carter, the same job as the young college student, during WWII. Annie had died five years prior to the student's arrival at the mill.

Her time came to an end when an impurity in the steel being poured above her head formed a bubble that eventually exploded.

This bubble caused scorching hot slag to land on Annie's head, and she melted to the ground.

Slag Pile Annie has haunted that corridor ever since, and she serves as a symbol of how quickly jeopardy can occur in the mill.

According to White, these stories were important to members of the steel mill. They were a way to raise awareness of the life and death situations that could have occurred.

Embedded in the horrific fantasy of these tales is truth.

Paranormal activity is a creative way to teach and oftentimes has a greater effect on an audience.

"Ghost stories are important because they tell us about history," White said. "Maybe not traditional history, but often about people who are not normally remembered."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF HAZELWOODGREEN.COM

A bird's eye shot of the J&L Steel Company located in the Hazelwood area. Slag Pile Annie was spotted here in work clothes and a bandana. She had died five years earlier.



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**Clowning Around with Alcohol is No Joke**

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1st violation: \$500 fine from the state  
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**21 or over? Enjoy responsibly**  
You don't have to drink to have fun this Halloween; but if you are over 21 and choose to, know the risks and use good judgment.

**Tips for responsible alcohol consumption:**  
Know your limits (.08 legally drunk)  
Take a water break  
Eat before drinking  
Pace your drinks  
Never drink and drive  
If you are on any medications, know how they interact with alcohol.

This program is made possible through a grant funded by the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board. The opinions and statements expressed do not necessarily represent the views of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board.

**INTERNSHIP WEEK**  
OCTOBER 24-27

 **KICK-OFF TO INTERNSHIP WEEK** POPUP: UNION ATRIUM  
TUES 24 11:30AM-2:00PM

 **ALL THINGS INTERNSHIPS (VIRTUAL)**  
WED 25 4:30 PM-5:30 PM

 **CAREER CAFÉ**  
THURS 26 4:30PM-5:30PM UNION 613

 **DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY**  
Center for Career Development



## Editor's Choice: Favorite Halloween costumes

Are you planning to trick-or-treat this Halloween? Even if your plans this year only involved the costume party of this nostalgic activity, here are the Duke editors' favorite childhood Halloween costumes to spark some inspiration for your own dress-up this season.



**Megan Trotter**  
-News Editor-  
Belle ("Beauty and the Beast")

For my 4th birthday, Princess Belle attended my tea party, and I absolutely adored her. Later that year for Halloween, I dressed up as her and lived out my "Beauty and the Beast" dreams, although I don't think I was quite as lady-like. But I mean, a princess takes many forms.



**Spencer Thomas**  
-Sports Editor-  
Tony Stewart

When I was 5, I dressed as my favorite NASCAR driver, Tony Stewart. My baby brother Oliver was part of my pit crew, my parents dressed up a wagon as my race car. I still own a sweatshirt of him for memories sake. Goes to show all costumes stay in fashion.



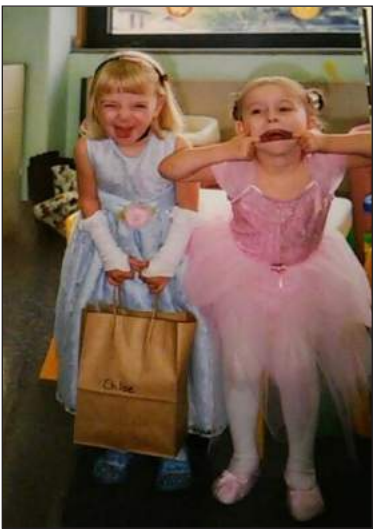
**Nicholas Zotos**  
-Ads Manager-  
Policeman

Cop baby. He still wants to help people, but as a medical professional instead. Cop is a classic Halloween costume. You probably have at least one of these elements already sitting in your closet.



**Isabella Abbott**  
-Features Editor-  
Tigger the Tiger, Snow White and Spiderman's best friend

My parents obviously let us pick our own costumes with no theme whatsoever but if you and your two friends need an odd combination, this may take the crown. My sister Bridget (left) picked a princess costume as Snow White, while my brother Griffin (middle) took the superhero approach as Spiderman. I love animals so baby Bella had to be Tigger (right).



**Emma Polen**  
-Editor in Chief-  
Princess Ballerina & Ballerina Princess

Objectively the best duo costume of all time. Are you stuck between two costumes? Why pick just one thing when you can be both? Thanks to my mom and a whole lot of tulle, my friend and I were able to pull off an iconic duo costume – my friend (left) was a Princess Ballerina, and baby Emma (right) was the Ballerina Princess.



**Emily Ambery**  
-Layout Editor-  
Light Bulb

My freshman year of high school I was stumped on what to be for Halloween 30 minutes before trick or treating, and my mom had a bright idea: a light bulb. Next thing I knew, I was wearing all black, staring down a tinfoil contraption with a glowing yellow orb about to be attached to my head. That night we confirmed that it takes three people to screw in a light bulb as my brother, my mom and I ensured that this glowing balloon could not leave my head.



**Zachary Petroff**  
-Opinions Editor-  
Goosebumps Super Fan

Was it really a costume? "Reader beware, you're in for a scare." I really was the no. 1 fanboy of R. L. Stine. Nothing says Halloween more than dressing up using fan merchandise you already have. And I had it all, including a "Goosebumps" book-bag (not pictured) and the Official "Goosebumps" Fan Club Pack.



**Emily Fritz**  
-A&E Editor-  
Disney Boo Bash cast member

What better way to choose a costume than to have the most magical corporate giant in the entertainment industry choose it for you? When I was a cast member on the Disney College Program, I gave out tons of candy for their seasonal celebration. Not included: sticky fingers.



**Brentaro Yamane**  
-Multimedia Editor-  
Paul Marcarelli (aka Verizon Guy)

In the early 2000s, Paul Marcarelli was well-known as the Verizon man in commercials. I thought he was the coolest person in the world so I decided to dress as him for Halloween. His contract with Verizon expired, and he now works as a spokesperson for Sprint in their commercials. Dressing up as Marcarelli the Verizon Guy now would be the epicest costume with-in a costume ever.

### Honorable Mentions



Spencer as a sheep



Spencer as Lane Kiffin



**Joe Madia's Barber Shop**  
Proudly Serving Pittsburgh since 1927  
107 Magee St.  
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15219

**Kevin Kappel**  
Owner / Master Barber  
412-566-7525 shop  
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Facebook / Joe Madias