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Kidney Foundation walks for change

EMBER DUKE
staff writer

Thousands gathered at the Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium early Sunday morning to fundraise and spread awareness of kidney disease at the city's annual Kidney Walk.

Hosted by the National Kidney Foundation, which provides care, knowledge and support across the country, the walk was a moment of positivity for those whose lives have been uprooted by the disease.

Development manager for Western Pa.'s branch of the foundation Molly Doebling was excited by this year's turnout. She hoped the walk would educate people and encourage them to get tested for possible kidney match donation.

"It's about coming together, celebrating life. Lots of people who attend this obviously have a connection to kidney disease whether they are a patient themselves or they know somebody," Doebling said. "It's bringing people together and making people aware that kidney disease is so prevalent in our community."

Every year, the walk raises over \$200,000 to be re-dispersed within the region. Roughly 80% of every dollar goes to research and programs like The Big Ask, The Big Give, which teaches patients how to ask for a kidney transplant and Drive for Dialysis, which provides comforts for patients on dialysis.

Though small, kidneys are crucial to healthy body functions. They filter waste in the bloodstream, help regulate blood pressure and help maintain the production of nutrients like calcium and production, according to The National Kidney Foundation website.

The leading causes are diabetes and high blood pressure, but other factors such as family history and autoimmune diseases also put people at risk. Kidney failure is treated by dialysis, which supplements the kidney functions or a kidney transplant.

see KIDNEY — page 2

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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ESPN's Joe Lunardi speaks at basketball season tip-off event



CHRISTAIN DAIKELER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Duquesne Head Men's Basketball Coach Keith Dambrot (left), ESPN Bracketologist Joe Lunardi (center) and Duquesne Head Women's Basketball Coach Dan Burt (right) pose at Duquesne's basketball season tip-off event on Thursday. Both coaches will look to build on their winning seasons in 2022-23 this winter.

MATTHEW THEODROS
staff writer

ESPN bracketologist Joe Lunardi spoke at the Duquesne Men's and Women's basketball preseason tip-off for the 2023-2024 season event last Thursday.

Lunardi has commented in the past about Duquesne's standing in the A-10 conference, and his continued interest in the Dukes kept the fieldhouse abuzz. Families and Duquesne alumni came together to celebrate the beginning of the basketball season and hear him speak.

President Ken Gormley opened the event with words of gratitude toward the audience, players and everyone responsible for the winning culture at Duquesne surrounding the athletics teams. In his speech, Gormley also emphasized his ambitious expectations for both rosters this upcoming season.

"I want to thank you all for another year of great Duquesne Dukes basketball," Gormley said. "I am saying it here folks, this is going to be a fabulous season this year."

The crowd was full of audible energy as everyone cheered and clapped at the promise of a winning season.

Following Gormley's speech, vice president of athletics Dave Harper introduced Lunardi, who described the madness that goes into his

bracketology picks and the ever-changing analysis he has to do to be accurate and timely.

"I have to embarrass myself in front of thousands and thousands of people. It's just the cost of doing business. Nobody is getting a perfect bracket no matter how many they fill out. You would have an easier job landing a plane in the sun," Lunardi said.

In May, Lunardi said Duquesne would make the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1977. In his most current assessment in bracketology, Duquesne falls short of making it into his projected March Madness bracket.

Following Lunardi, women's basketball Head Coach Dan Burt discussed the team's offseason adjustments to the team's already complex game plan.

"We are playing to get a shot within the first eight to nine seconds of the shot clock while upping our tempo on offense," Burt said. "Our defense has changed also. From a defensive standpoint we are going to press people for nearly all 40 minutes of the game."

"Megan McConnell is the best player in the Atlantic-10," Burt said. "She is the leader of our team, she's a really good basketball player, and she averages 10 rebounds a game at 5'7."

A key match up early in the season is a marquee home battle against in-city rival Pitt on Nov. 18.

Naelle Bernard, the team's scoring threat, emphasized the importance of winning that game at home in front of their home fans.

"They were able to beat us on their floor last year, so we want to get some revenge," Bernard said. "That is a really good team, but we are too, so that's a game we are really excited to win for our home crowd."

The women's team seeks to make their second ever March Madness in the program's history. The future is bright in Duquesne women's basketball as this team is hungry and capable of being a real threat to the competition after improving last season.

The women's team will open their season on the road at Princeton on Nov. 19.

Meanwhile, the men's basketball team is seeking to improve off a disappointing end to what was a much-improved season.

Head Coach Keith Dambrot spoke on what is necessary for the Dukes to have another winning season.

"We just have to bring it every game, working on our mental and physical toughness," Dambrot said. "We have been close but just haven't been able to get over the hump. We are capable of beating anyone in the league."

The Dukes maintain a good portion of their team from last season, other than key losses such as starting point guard Tevin Brewer. New additions to the roster were made,

including many international players. The full 2023-24 roster includes eight overseas players ranging from Western Africa to Eastern Europe.

The expectations for the men's teams as a whole are high for players and coaches alike. Scoring forward, Tre Williams, shared a similar sentiment to Dambrot that establishing continuity bench depth is the key to tournament success.

"I feel like we can make a huge run, we have a lot of pieces and depth at each spot," Williams said. "That's going to play a huge part in March because guys get fatigued and we have the crew that we can split those minutes evenly."

The men's roster has many expectations for this upcoming season, but they are ready to tackle them all and make their first NCAA tournament appearance since 1977.

After the event concluded, players had the chance to take photos and sign autographs for the excited fans, a new experience for some of the Dukes this season.

Kareem Rozier, a sophomore guard, embraced the opportunity to sign items for those fans and see the joy in their faces.

"It's still surreal to me seeing little kids wanting me to sign their basketball," Rozier said. "I can speak for all of us that it was a great moment to have, and that we love that we bring happiness to people."

The three mile walk designed to help treat people with kidney disease

POLICE BRIEFS

Monday, Oct. 09-

There was damage to an unattended vehicle on the 10th floor of Locust Garage.

Monday, Oct. 09-

A family member of a Duquesne student left her wallet inside Fisher Hall on the 7th floor. It was later found by a resident student but was missing \$370 and her driver's license. An investigation took place, but it concluded with no known actor at this time.

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

from KIDNEY — page 1

Doehring said that early intervention can prevent the disease from worsening, but many do not realize they have it.

"Unfortunately, people don't find out until it's in a later stage because that's when you start getting symptoms," Doehring said. "But we really just try to preach 'ask your doctor,' especially if you have one of the risk factors. All you really need to do is ask your doctor for a simple urinalysis."

Keynote speaker Taylor Myer shared her story of conquering stage 5 kidney failure to rouse the crowd's spirits before embarking on the three-mile walk.

"I had to adjust to life with kidney disease," she said. "I also urge all of you to please sign up to be a living donor because if it wasn't for my wonderful donor, Shelly, I wouldn't have the opportunity of a second life."

The event brought a sense of community for transplant recipients like Oula Khalifa, who has battled kidney disease for over 15 years.

"We raised so much money, so it's awesome to see the participants. It's been amazing to see how many people are affected by kidney disease but then how

many people's lives get better. And the ones that haven't made it— we can remember them still," she said.

In the three walks she has attended, Khalifa has always felt the walk was successful in its efforts to inform the public, saying it was not until she had kidney disease herself that she, her family or her friends knew more about its impact.

Khalifa's friends now come yearly to support and to help raise money.

Khlood Salman, associate nursing professor at Duquesne, said that being proactive about kidney health can prevent its effects.

"The best thing is prevention and early identification. Prevention includes screenings periodically like check ups, even if they don't feel any symptoms they should get screening and check ups," she said. "And if they find any symptoms like burning during urination for example or pain on the side of the body, or anything they should go to the doctor and check it."

She also recommended keeping a clean diet and lifestyle so the kidney does not have to filter excess toxins from the body.

"The best thing for the kidney



BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Participants line up to begin the annual 3 mile Pittsburgh Kidney Walk.

is to drink water," she said.

Courtney Martin, a fellow transplant recipient, pointed out that kidney disease is often overlooked, and she was grateful to see people acknowledge the issue since so many individuals endure it. She believed that the annual walk provides necessary information about the disease.

Todd Diperna, who has been on dialysis for a year and is awaiting a transplant, was happy that the walk brought his family together and served as a moment of inspiration rather than something negative.

"Everybody's been so nice. I've been running into a lot of different people," he said.

Diperna urged people to get tested and learn what they can do to prevent others from struggling.

"It's a silent killer, always get your blood checked 'cause you don't know," he said.

The National Kidney Foundation takes donations until Dec. 31 and hopes to raise \$30,000 more to meet its annual goal.

To donate visit: <https://www.kidney.org/>

Soft words, big impact— echos from the Hill

ZACH PETROFF

opinions editor

Who decides what happens to the neighborhood?

That is the question tour guide Terri Baltimore posed to Duquesne attendees at the beginning of a tour of the historic Hill District. Baltimore, with her soft spoken words, managed to make an impact with her blended stories of the past and hope for the future for the once thriving culture district.

On Thursday, a group of nearly 20 Duquesne staff and students went on a bus-guided tour around the Hill District neighborhood. The two-hour trip allowed participants to see a variety of historical landmarks, repurposed buildings and plans for further development.

Assistant professor of law, Maryann Herman, said she enjoyed the way the tour was able to blend the current Hill District with its storied past.

"I think it's really important for the Duquesne community to be familiar with and understand everything that's going on in the great community," Herman said, "especially considering the history of the Hill District."

Claude McKay, a Harlem Renaissance poet, referred to the Hill District as the "crossroads of the world," during the first half of the 20th century based on the area's contribution to music, literature and arts. A diverse area with a rich multicultural presence, the Hill District has had a rich history of and was home to one of Pittsburgh's first and most dominant Black districts.



ZACH PETROFF | OPINIONS EDITOR

Community leader turned tour guide Terry Baltimore (right) leads a group from Duquesne, including Assistant professor of law Maryann Herman (pictured) on a tour of the historical Hill District.

In the late 1950s, more than 8,000 people were pushed out of the lower Hill through eminent domain for the development of the old Civic Arena, moving them up the Hill and to other neighborhoods like Homewood and East Liberty.

Since then, the Hill District has seen rapid depopulation. Between 1950 and 1990, the Hill lost 71% of its residents, according to the Pittsburgh Census Tract.

Research manager for Duquesne's Center for Integrative Health, Lisa Ripper, said one of the "most jarring" moments of the tour occurred when the group gathered across the street from Freedom Corner on Crawford Street.

"Ms. Terri held up a picture

that depicted what the view from where we were on Center Avenue looked like before the government decided to redevelop [the] Lower Hill in the late 1950s and early 1960s," Ripper said.

For Ripper, it was interesting to see the drastic change from hundreds of "bustling" residential buildings into the paved lot that became the Civics Arena.

The tour included stops at several historically significant sites such as August Wilson Park, Crawford Grill and August Wilson Center, the childhood home of the Pittsburgh playwright.

"[The August Wilson House] has become this amazing opportunity for people to come and celebrate the house," Baltimore said. "It's a celebration of August Wilson and also celebrates the com-

munity that August Wilson has put on his shoulders and taken all around the world."

After stopping at the Crawford Grill, a historical landmark which once hosted an impressive gathering of jazz musicians from all over the country, the tour welcomed surprise guest Kenny Blake. The world-renown jazz saxophonist and Pittsburgh native serenaded the crowd with an intimate performance from his alto saxophone.

Assistant professor at the school of music, Nicole Vilkner, said she appreciated the legacy jazz has in the Hill District, especially as an active member in a team of students and community partners creating an interactive soundwalk in the Hill District.

see HILL — page 3

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Duquesne remembers the Hill District's history 3



ZACH PETROFF | OPINIONS EDITOR
Kenny Blake, Pittsburgh native and famous saxophonist, surprised tour-goers with an improvised Jazz section.

from HILL — page 2

"The musical legacy of the Hill District has international significance, and it also inspires us locally in the School of Music at Duquesne," Wilkner said.

The tour highlighted the work of the many residents who are playing an active role in restoring the neighborhood. Familiar establishments in the community, such as Big Tom's Barbershop, are intertwined with new business, such as the Nafasi on Centre, that complement the roots of the area while adding a modernized appeal.

"Centre Avenue is really coming alive," Baltimore said, pointing out the new businesses.

Along the route, Baltimore also noted several local artists, including muralists Kyle Hallberg and James "Yaya" Hough,

who have contributed their art to the exterior of the Hill District architecture.

While there is a lot to be hopeful about for the Hill District, the activist-turned-tour-guide made it clear that the area is still a work in progress.

Projects such as the Home Repair project and home repair funding and Catapult's Startup to Storefront entrepreneurship program are helping to revitalize the area.

"In the midst of the changes that are coming to the neighborhood, there are still struggles," Baltimore said. "There are still struggles with unemployment, there are still struggles with substance abuse. So what you saw [on the tour] is the folks working on building the environment and a lot of social service organizations working on the human aspect of the changes that are coming to the neighborhood."

Sorority raises over \$19,000 for Make-A-Wish

EMILY AMBERY

layout editor

At 15 years old, Mia Thompson fights Germinoma, a type of tumor found in the brain. At 10 years old, violinist Fred Poe, has had 10 surgeries related to his heart. Both children, who were diagnosed with critical illnesses, have had wishes fulfilled by the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The "Miss Duquesne" pageant, hosted by the Beta Delta chapter of Alpha Sigma Tau raised over \$19,000 for the Make-A-Wish foundation on Saturday. The event featured competitors around campus showing off gowns and talents, but the stars of the show were young Thompson and Poe. Thompson was crowned "Junior Miss Duquesne," the first one in Miss Duquesne history, and Poe performed on his violin and received two standing ovations.

In its 20th year of fundraising, Miss Duquesne was organized by Alpha Sigma Tau sisters, junior Emma Tobia and sophomore Abby Tills. The two expressed gratitude for Saturday evening's event, which they started planning in June.

"It was very stressful to plan and host, but it was so worth it in the end," Tobia said. "Seeing the look on Fred's face when we were all cheering for him was so amazing. We had to hold back tears and get back to the stage."

Friends and family filed into the Union ballroom at 7 p.m. for an evening of cat-

walks, questions, performances and crowns.

Attendees could purchase baked goods, raffle tickets and flowers to support the foundation as well as donate through the Create Change online campaign. The event also had a Kendra Scott table selling jewelry, where 20% of the proceeds went to Make-A-Wish. Raffle baskets included Enclave merchandise, a Nakama gift card, lululemon and a signed picture of Cameron Heyward.

"We've worked with the sisters of Alpha Sigma Tau so many times and are always so impressed with how organized and motivated they are in their philanthropy," said Maggie Zurbrugg-Ramey, manager at the Kendra Scott store in Shadyside.

The pageant began with opening words from Tobia, Tills and president of Alpha Sigma Tau, Maddie Tronoski emphasizing the importance of the work the Make-A-Wish foundation does.

"Every 34 minutes, Make-A-Wish grants the wish of a child diagnosed with a critical illness in the United States and its territories," according to a video played during the event.

Contestants debuted their gowns with a catwalk to Nelly Furtado's "Maneater." Each contestant represented a group on campus, a majority of which were Greek Life.

As they walked, members of their clubs, family and friends cheered and awed at contestant's floor length ball gowns.

"She looks so good," said a friend of Kathy Nguyen, a contestant representing Delta Sigma Pi sorority. "Yeah, she ate," another friend agreed with a colloquialism for doing well.

Represented by Gamma Phi Beta was Kyah Thompson, 15-year-old Mia's older sister. Thompson shared that her motivation to join the pageant was her sister.

"I really enjoyed Miss Duquesne. There was a lot of meaning behind it for me because I was competing for Mia," Thompson said. "The best part was being able to help fundraise for kids like Mia and for Mia to have her moment."

Although the Cleveland branch of Make-A-Wish has arranged Mia's trip to the Caribbean, Thompson noted that the first response from Alpha Sigma Tau when they heard about Mia's story was that they wanted to grant her wish.

"Knowing that we have the support that we do is what makes it easier. Hearing that someone you love has been diagnosed with cancer at such a young age is a really hard thing to process," Thompson said. "But it makes it a lot easier to carry that weight when you get to spread it across your community."



HANNAH KERN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

(Clockwise from top left) Julianna Faber, Jaime Larson, Molly Frick, Caitlin Kaminski, Violet McMullen, Emily Gierczynski, Mackenzie Cahill, Kathy Nguyen, Megan Carnahan, Kyah Thompson and Jenna Pierce wearing their ballgowns for the catwalk and question part of the event.

We are really grateful to Alpha Sigma Tau."

The catwalk was followed by contestants talking about their motivation, achievement, dream job, favorite motto and spirit animal.

Jake Seavy, development coordinator at Make-A-Wish Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia, followed with remarks about Alpha Sigma Tau's more than \$112,000 contribution to Make-A-Wish in the past six years, granting 22 wishes.

"The amount of time the sisters of Alpha Sigma Tau have put in behind the scenes is remarkable" he said.

Fred, as part of his own wish, performed a song on his Make-A-Wish-donated violin for the Miss Duquesne audience.

He expressed his musical passion to many in an emotional speech that made the audience visibly tear up. His goal is to play more than nine instruments, the amount that his aunt can play. Poe is more than halfway there with violin, recorder, saxophone, ukulele and piano under his belt.

After two enthusiastic standing ovations following Fred's performance, attendees were encouraged to participate in the raffle and shop at Kendra Scott and the bake sale during a brief intermission.

The highly-anticipated talent show followed a intermission where contestants were judged on entertainment and performance value. Acts included cheerlead-

ing, Irish step dance, "Hot Crossed Buns" on the recorder, color guard, American Sign Language, singing, an art showcase, violin and lip syncing to High School Musical's "Bop to the Top."

Tobia and Tills then presented Maggie Tronoski with Alpha Sigma Tau's Sister of the Year award. Members' praise for their president was compiled into a video and played for Tronoski and the crowd.

Finally, Tobia and Tills announced the winner. Fourth-year pharmacy student Violet McMullen won Miss Duquesne.

"It was surreal. I did it for fun so winning was kind of crazy," McMullen said. They credited their win to their talent which was a color guard routine to Taylor Swift's "Cruel Summer."

Other contestants received additional recognition. Megan Carnahan won top fundraiser, Jenna Pierce won the people's choice award and Emily Gierczynski won Miss Congeniality.

"Having so many organizations doing things for Mia and in Mia's honor gives Mia strength in this whole thing," Kyah Thompson said. "Everywhere that Mia turns, there is someone there to tell her story of how strong and courageous she has been in her fight."

Editor's note: Photographer Hannah Kern and News Editor Megan Trotter are members of Alpha Sigma Tau.



HANNAH KERN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
10-year-old Fred Poe playing the violin on stage.



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WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS

Contact our
editor-in-chief
polene@duq.edu



MSOC shut out twice and on a losing streak

MICHAEL O'GRADY
staff writer

Duquesne men's soccer has drifted off course in October, getting kept off the scoresheet twice over the last week and seeing their losing streak hit three games.

It wasn't ugly, it wasn't even bad – but it wasn't perfect, either, as the Dukes dropped the match against George Mason Saturday night, 1-0.

"If you look at it on the field, it was one of our better performances of the year," Duquesne coach Chase Brooks said. "But if your mindset is even slightly off, nights

like tonight can happen."

Returning to Rooney Field for the first time in over two weeks, Duquesne's goal was to keep its Atlantic 10 record above .500 following an Oct. 4 loss at Davidson. Instead, George Mason emerged with the victory, dropping Duquesne's record to 2-2-1 in league play.

The Dukes led the shots battle, 17-9, but quality offense was hard to find for both teams for much of the night. GMU goalie Jaime Salvado made four saves to Duquesne's Zoltan Nagy's five. About 11 minutes passed before Duquesne's Ask Ekeland found space for the game's first scoring chance, but the attempt

sailed left.

Duquesne's Jacob Casha and Evan Anderson had two golden chances within three minutes of one another, but Casha's attempt was blocked and Salvado turned away Anderson's howitzer. The Patriots first threatened 27 minutes in, when Asparuh Slavov targeted the bottom right corner.

George Mason's Kelly Janssen found the back of the net 10 minutes into the second half. Nagy made an initial save following a Patriot cross into the box, but Janssen jumped on the rebound for the game's only goal.

"If you are not completely focused, every team in the A-10 is good enough," Brooks said. "You have to show up and play every single play, every single second. You're not allowed to take a second off, and I think that's what that was – it was just a momentary lapse."

Minutes later, Salvado made his biggest save of the night when Duquesne's Sam Bennett wired a shot for the bottom-left corner.

Save for a Patriot chance with five minutes remaining, the ball spent most of the second half in the Patriots' zone. Duquesne increased its urgency in the final moments, earning two successive 89th-minute corner kicks.

With seven seconds left, the ball found Duquesne's Ashton Jell, whose powerful strike from inside the box sailed over the crossbar, ending the Dukes' hopes for a win.

"It was a 99% performance, we were just missing that 1%," Brooks said post-game. "We have an A-to-B philosophy, with B being the championship, but tonight was a slight veer off toward C.

We've gotta correct that and go back toward B."

Wednesday was nowhere near the correction Brooks wanted. The Dukes dropped a 2-0 game to St. Bonaventure in Olean, N.Y.

Despite being level with nine shots on goal each, the Bonnies were able to convert twice thanks to Junior forward Umechi Akuazaoku. Both came from in close and with a fair share of finesse. First was an arching shot that waved past Nagy's outstretched right hand.

With nine minutes left in the game, Akuazaoku dribbled past the Duquesne defense, as well as Nagy, before slotting an insurance goal into the unguarded net.

The Dukes will look to end their skid against a two-win George Washington team at Rooney Field on Saturday night.



DYLAN FISTER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

George Mason celebrates the game's only goal in front of a despondant Duke on Saturday night.



DYLAN FISTER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Forward Ask Ekeland leads the Duquesne attack

WSOC extends unbeaten run to six with draw

SEAN MCKEAN
staff writer



DYLAN FISTER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Duquesne captain Jaimi Araujo battles for control of the ball in a game earlier this year.

On Saturday afternoon, the Duquesne women's soccer team drew to Saint Joseph's University in a scoreless game, bringing their record to 5-5-4.

Despite the game going without a goal for either side, aggression was still high.

Within the first six minutes, a shot had been taken by Saint Joseph's, but it was skillfully blocked. Barely a minute later, the Dukes responded with a shot of their own from Libby Majka, but the Hawks kept the ball away from their net. The Dukes got another shot at the eight-minute mark by Majka once again. However, the shot swung high above the goal.

As more shots were taken, aggression went too high for Duquesne, and a yellow card was given to Eva LaVecchia. The aggression was understandable, since neither team had considerable control of the ball.

The Dukes kept the pressure on the Hawks, getting three shots within eight minutes by virtue of Jayden Sharpless, Maya Matesa and Brianna Moore. Due to great defense by Saint Joseph's, however, these goals never materialized.

As the first half came to an end, the Dukes continued their aggressive pushes

for the ball, and they again went a bit over the limit, with Margey Brown receiving a yellow card at the 33-minute mark. After these two cards, Saint Joseph's got two shots on the goal, but ultimately never got the point, ending the first half scoreless.

The second half began with more of the same. The Dukes achieved a shot on goal at the 50-minute mark and the Hawks soon responded with a shot at the 52-minute mark.

However, that was the closest either team got to getting the edge over the opposition. Despite many more shots being taken at the goal on both sides, the game ended in a scoreless draw.

The draw extends the team's unbeaten streak to six games. Their last loss came over a month ago, in that time they have gotten a pair of wins to go with four ties.

The last time the Dukes had an unbeaten run this long was a pair of six-game streaks in 2016 and 2017. A victory or tie in their next game would mark the longest such streak in program history.

They will have the chance to make history on Thursday at home against George Washington University.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Maddy Nuendorfer continued her hot streak, picking up another clean sheet on Saturday.

Eighth-Ranked Blue Hens batter Dukes

SPENCER THOMAS

sports editor

They may be flightless birds, but the Delaware Blue Hens took to the air and used a lethal passing attack to beat

when Perrantes found Darryl Powell Jr. for a 52-yard touchdown less than three minutes into the game.

“We took advantage of some of the things we thought they might be giving us,” Schmitt said. “Darius can make some



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS
Duquesne’s captains walk to midfield prior to their matchup in Delaware on Saturday. The game took place in a sold-out stadium of Blue Hen fans, who saw their team move up in the FCS rankings.

Duquesne on Saturday, 43-17.

Delaware quarterback Drew O’Connor nearly tripled Duquesne’s passing output, with 347 yards on 28-40 passing, while Duquesne’s Darius Perrantes finished just 9-17 for 128 yards.

That trend was not the case early on,

plays, and do it with his feet and hit arm”

However, Delaware bounced back quickly with two touchdowns before the end of the quarter and took a 15-7 lead. A 63-yard drive that ended with a field goal from Brian Bruzdevicz, got Duquesne back in the game. However,

Delaware looked capable of extending their lead when they moved the ball within a yard of Duquesne’s end zone. However, a lofting pass to the corner fell short of its target and was intercepted by Ayden Garnes.

Duquesne threw one final counter-punch on their ensuing drive a draw play to Edward Robinson saw Duquesne’s running back explode up the middle, using his speed for a 67-yard touchdown. Duquesne’s two-point lead would be the last they’d hold for the remainder of the game.

Delaware recaptured the lead with 43 seconds to go in the second quarter with a short run,

And extended it on a long touchdown pass in the third.

A pair of touchdowns later in the half sealed Duquesne’s fate in the 43-17 loss. Duquesne was shut out in the second half. Their five drives ended with a pair of interceptions and three punts.

Despite the loss, Schmitt found some positives from his team’s performance, especially against venerable opposition. The Blue Hens’ only loss this season has come at Penn State, and the win moved them up two spots to eighth in the FCS Coaches Poll.

“I want to get a chance to take a look at the tape because I think our kids really played well for spurts of the game,” Schmitt said. “There are periods where we made some mistakes that allowed them to capitalize or didn’t allow us to score. I’m really happy with the way we played.

We’re going to keep improving on that.”

The Dukes will finally return home for the first time in six weeks on Saturday when they host Central Connecticut State in a Northeast Conference showdown. Kickoff is scheduled for noon.

“You know what we’re most looking forward to?” Schmitt asked. “Coming home to Rooney. We love playing there and looking forward to seeing all of our fans.”



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS
Duquesne and Delaware players exchange pleasantries after the pregame coin toss.

Dukes in the rankings

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

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

A-10 Women’s Soccer Standings: (Top six teams advance to conference tournament)

Rank	Team	Conf.	PTS.	Overall
1.	Saint Louis	5-0-1	16	10-2-2
2.	La Salle	5-1-0	15	7-5-2
3.	Dayton	4-0-3	15	9-1-5
4.	UMass	4-1-2	14	7-3-4
5.	Saint Joseph’s	3-1-3	12	3-6-6
6.	Duquesne	2-0-4	10	5-4-4
7.	Fordham	2-1-3	9	4-6-4
8.	Rhode Island	2-1-3	9	2-5-6
9.	Loyola Chicago	2-2-2	8	6-6-2
10.	St. Bonaventure	2-2-2	8	3-4-6
11.	VCU	2-4-1	7	3-8-3
12.	Richmond	1-5-0	3	3-8-3
13.	George Mason	1-6-0	3	1-14-0
14.	George Washington	0-5-1	1	3-8-3
15.	Davidson	0-6-1	1	3-10-1

Rowing at Head of The Ohio Regatta:

Open 1x: Cherise Dicke: Second Place

Open 1x: Grace Kennevan: Third Place

Open 4+: Jessica DeSaro and crew: First Place

Open 8+: Meghan Mangan and crew: First Place

Open 8+: Catherane Egan and crew: Third Place

Freshman 8+: Kat Muha and crew: First Place

Northeast Conference Football Standings

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

Mic Drop works to build a capella community

NATALIE RODRIGUEZ
staff writer

Friday’s performance was “aca-awesome” as Duquesne’s a capella group Mic Drop welcomed groups from three different schools for their annual “Beats on the Bluff.”

The visiting ensembles included Carnegie Mellon University’s (CMU) Treblemakers, C# Singers, Soundbytes, Counter Point and Reflexion; University of Pittsburgh’s Pitches and Tones, the Songburghs and Tonal Disruptions; and Indiana University of Pennsylvania’s (IUP) Crimson Chords.

While the groups finished warming up, the audience was welcomed into a sneak peek of what was to come, and the energy was palpable.

The night’s set list consisted of songs ranging from “Alejandro” by Lady Gaga, performed by Pitt’s Songburghs to the CMU Treblemakers’ mash up of Bruno Mars’ “Talking to the Moon” and the Halloween favorite from “Hocus Pocus,” Erutan’s “Come Little Children.”

CMU’s Soundbytes brought more soulful songs, such as “Envy” by Ogi while the Crimson Chords performed “Toxic” by Britney Spears and CMU’s Reflexion made their performance debut with a rendition of “Try Everything” by Shakira.

Mic Drop closed the show with “Prisoner” by Miley Cyrus and Dua Lipa featuring soloist Melena Maglietta, a musical arrangement which was specially arranged by Mic Drop founder Blake Mechtel.

The night was filled with dynamic performances, and the energy extended to audience members as they moved along to the beats and melodies of the performances.

Many people may be familiar with a capella from the movie “Pitch Perfect,” but a capella is more than the glitz and glamor of the silver screen.

“We practice two times a week, and we have a winter concert and a spring concert. We also do the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella, which is the same competition from Pitch Perfect,” said Maglietta, a Mic Drop soloist and first-year member.

When it comes to prepping for practices “Oftentimes, the music is sent out beforehand, and you can learn it through the voice memos and how it’s supposed to sound, and then we get together in the practice room and just go for it,” Maglietta said.

But songs don’t just arrange themselves. Music director Maksim Shcherbatyuk arranged and soloed in Mic Drop’s performance of “No Time to Die” by Billie Eilish. Before sending



NATALIE RODRIGUEZ | STAFF WRITER

“Beats on the Bluff” was an off-season event, but the a capella teams still took the opportunity to give friendly feedback before competition begins in January.

it out to be learned by the team, he spent the summer composing and perfecting it.

“I arranged ‘No Time to Die’ over the summer because it takes a lot of concentration, and I try to get it done in one or two sessions. Once practices start, we like to focus on building the energy of the team up to transfer it to the stage,” Shcherbatyuk said.

While most teams focus on competing and learning covers, the Songburghs recently released their own EP, “Feel Alive,” on Spotify.

“We do the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella every year. Last year, we got second place in the quarter-finals and went on to semi-finals, and we also made an EP with our competition set. Other than that, we like to perform around the Pittsburgh community and sing wherever we can,” said President Sreya Dey.

Community is a prominent component of a capella, especially in the Greater Pittsburgh area. CMU’s Treblemakers (who claimed the title before the Treblemakers from the movie Pitch Perfect) have a similar schedule with competing and practicing.

“We start the year doing concerts. ‘Beats on the Bluff’ is actually our first show of the year. The competition season starts in January, and we start prepping in November,” said soloist and

director of finance for the Treblemakers Dee Kumar.

The leading competition team at CMU enjoys participating in off-season events. “It’s a great way to meet other teams. We like being able to expand the a capella community,” said vice president of the Treblemakers, Eliot Herron.

This year’s “Beats on the Bluff” hosted more than double the number of teams and performers and the a capella community still continues to grow.

“I started planning for this event in February,” Mic Drop president Austin Meinert told the Duke. “We were in [the] quarter finals, and we saw and met a number of groups, including the Crimson Chords from IUP. I got in contact with them and essentially invited them while in competition.”

“I booked a space for the event back in March, and over the summer I was working with my board...[so we could] hit the ground running with everything. We ended up getting 11 new members, and part of the audition process used the songs we created over the summer during callbacks.”

Although the concert schedules are not yet finalized, you can catch Mic Drop’s next performance on DSTV’s Spooky Streaming and later at Duquesne’s Light-Up Night.



NATALIE RODRIGUEZ | STAFF WRITER

Songburgh soloist Emmy Ploskina breathes life into the a capella performance. The Songburghs have immortalized some of their music via Spotify as well.

Aquarius ♒
I'm full of pasta and anxiety.

Pisces ♓
Funnel fries are like calamari but sweet.

Aries ♈
If you've ever wondered what it's like to swallow a pimple, it's horrifying.

Taurus ♉
I am with child.
I cannot die to the pretzel prophecy.

Gemini ♊
I've been having a lot of bad dreams but not all of them contain talking sperms.

Cancer ♋
Booty shoes (ankle boots)

Leo ♌
Yeah, but I put an 'lol' at the end of it.

Virgo ♍
The frozen, floating head of Richard Nixon

Libra ♎
This is a communist relationship.

Scorpio ♏
Organs should feel invisible.

Sagittarius ♐
Home girl needs a feline friendship.

Capricorn ♑
Hi, excuse me.
What kind of neck do I need to catch a break?

CAMPUS
EVENTS

Cafecito con Pan and Pumpkins
Oct. 12 @ 9 p.m.

Join SACNAS in the NiteSpot to wrap up Hispanic Heritage Month for pumpkin painting, coffee with sweet bread and hot chocolate!

Night of Frights
Oct. 13 @ 8:30 p.m.

Watch a Halloween horror movie shown in the Towers MPR for Friday the 13th!

Alcohol Awareness Week Tailgate
Oct. 14 @ 11 a.m.

Join the Office of DU Cares at a sober tailgate on the Assumption Commons.

Ecology Club's Plant Swap
Oct. 17 @ 9 p.m.

Trade your plant propagations with other students in the NiteSpot. "Ready to plant" sprouts will also be available to swap or purchase.

EMILY'S
EPIPHANIES

A New Kind of Spoons

Mental health and wellness can be a tricky thing to balance, especially during a heavy exam week, but I'd like to share with you a metaphor from one of my close friends that has helped me to visualize what I need and how I use my mental energy.

You have an allotted number of spoons per day. Every time you give your mental energy to a task or person, you give them a spoon.

When you run out, so does your social and mental battery. You must take it easy to avoid borrowing from tomorrow's silverware drawer.

Some days, you may have extra. Others, it may feel like you've melted down all of your spoons and given one big push to a specific task.

Regardless of how you use them, I encourage you to use them wisely and use them for your own best interest, especially as we pass our halfway point.
— Emily Fritz

RAD DAYS AHEAD

Emily Fritz | A&E Editor

RAD is more than a dead piece of vernacular from the '70s and '80s; in Pittsburgh, the Allegheny Regional Asset District is the new RAD.

The organization has invested more than \$2 billion to regional assets, and has decided to "give back" to taxpayers by providing 40 days of free admission to various events, venues and experiences.

"We are always looking for ways to give back to the people who support our regional assets every day," said RAD Board Chair Dan Griffin.

"RAD Days provides everyone with the chance to appreciate the true gems that make Allegheny County a wonderful place to live."

RAD Days end on Oct. 17, but there are still several opportunities to partake in.

Oct. 12

Beechwood Farms
Nature Reserve
Owl Prowl at 7 p.m.

Oct. 14

The Frick Pittsburgh
free admission from
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fort Pitt Museum
free admission from
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Oct. 15

Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium
free admission from
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Last Timed Entry at 3:30 p.m.

Carnegie Science Center
free admission from
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Renaissance City Choir
1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Rivers of Steel
free tours from
1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Tours depart every half hour.

Quantum Theatre
"The Flying Lovers of
Vitebsk" starting at 3:30 p.m.

Oct. 17

PNC Park
free tours from
10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 p.m.
50 people per time slot

Visit www.radworkshere.org to plan your visits.

"This is going to be a fantastic way to celebrate some of the best places to spend a day in the city," Griffin said.

New milkshake hits 2023 homecoming scene

MARIA HICKMAN
staff writer

I scream, you scream, we all scream for — milkshakes?

Duquesne students will be shouting from the rooftops over Moonlit Burgers' new milkshake, "the Frosty Duq."

The shake consists of Millie's soft serve vanilla ice cream, blue raspberry syrup and red and blue jimmies.

The cup gets a drizzle of strawberry syrup and once the blended shake is added, it's topped with whipped cream and more red and blue jimmies. And of course, the classic "cherry on top."

But coming up with a new milkshake is not an easy feat.

To draw upon organic inspirations, Moonlit Burgers collaborated with alumni to help brainstorm ideas.

Moonlit Burgers' General manager Wayne Saward said that the whole process took about a month, and they had many other ideas before they came up with their new debut.

"[The alumni] approached us back in August," Saward told The Duke. "They came by and sampled a couple times...I went

through some [recipes] that weren't so great."

After trying strawberry syrup, cherry juice and even blueberry compote, Saward landed on blue raspberry as the focal ingredient, which gives the Frosty Duq its blue hue and its sweet, cotton candy-like flavoring.

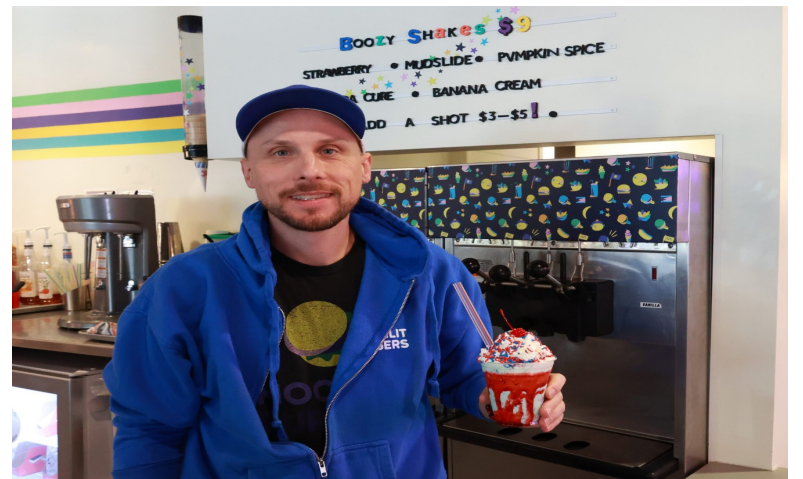
Aside from using Duquesne property for their Uptown location, Moonlit Burgers is proud to accept Flex and DU meal swipes in order to accommodate the student body.

As they strengthen their new roots on Forbes Avenue, Saward is eager for the restaurant to stay involved with student affairs.

Moonlit Burgers is always willing to lend a helping hand to different organizations on campus to assist with various projects and fundraising.

"This semester so far, it's almost double [the amount of Duquesne affiliated fundraisers] we did last year...We're good to the Duquesne community, we're willing to give them space for free, donate things, [and] help them out in whatever way we can," Saward said.

The venue has hosted luncheons for freshmen orienta-



BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Wayne Saward, general manager of Moonlit Burgers and co-creator of the Frosty Duq, went through several different recipe attempts before adding it to the menu.

tion, multiple gatherings for faculty, staff and students in addition to catering school-sponsored events.

Moonlit Burgers is also actively developing a food truck to present at Food Truck Fridays on A-Walk, cleverly named "The Patty Wagon."

As the project comes to its close, Saward shared that the Patty Wagon may be ready to serve by the end of the month.

"We do these things for the Duquesne community," Saward

said. Leading up to Homecoming, Moonlit will encourage school spirit through their new Spiritan-themed offering.

The new shake was created in honor of Duquesne's upcoming Homecoming and will be available Oct. 9-21.

"If [the shake] is popular enough, I think it's something we'd keep on the menu...I have five pounds of red sprinkles and five pounds of blue sprinkles. I don't know that we'll go through all those," Saward laughed.

The best spooks and scares of the season

ZACH PETROFF
opinions editor

As the leaves start to die and the nights get longer and colder, there is no better way to celebrate the Halloween holiday than getting absolutely terrified.

This October, the city of Pittsburgh has plenty of opportunities for thrill-seekers and Hallows Eve enthusiasts to get spooked.

Haunted Pittsburgh LLC
414 Grant St., Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Looking for a way to get your steps in while visiting Pittsburgh's most haunted areas?

Located just minutes away from campus, in front of the City-County building, the Haunted Pittsburgh offers an all-outdoor walking ghost tour on Fridays and Saturdays.

For \$20, thrill seekers can go on a 70 to 95-minute tour of some of the most haunted places in the Steel City.

Hundred Acres Manor Haunted House - 100 Acres Dr., Bethel Park, PA 15102

Ranked as one the "most extreme haunted attraction" and spanning over a mile long, there are plenty of ways to be creeped

out at the Hundred Acres Manor Haunted House in Bethel Park.

For \$28, guests have access to five uniquely themed haunted houses, but the terror does not stop there.

For an additional \$10, the truly daring can experience what it's like to be buried alive in the Hundred Acres Manor burial simulator.

Also available on site is a haunted maze and a beer lounge for those 21 or older.

Evil Dead the Musical - 327 S. Main St. Pittsburgh PA 15220

Those looking to both laugh and scream in terror can enjoy "Evil Dead the Musical," a hilarious show that takes on the cult classic Evil Dead films.

Duquesne students can enjoy the story of five college students who accidentally unleash evil when visiting an abandoned cabin.

Pricing starts at \$41.

ScareHouse Pittsburgh Mills Mall - 2012 Butler Logan Rd., Tarentum, PA 15084

Big time horror movie director Guillermo del Toro once raved about the Scarehouse, stating, "With the sound design and the

atmospherics, it is beautiful."

For the faint-hearted however, "beautiful" may not be the right words to describe the four haunted houses that comprise the ScareHouse.

Starting at \$19.99, visitors can spend the evening with all things horrifying in a place known for its masterful makeup and overall ambiance, The Scarehouse also offers creepy themed escape rooms on site.

Haunted Hills Hayride and The Valley of Darkness Haunted Walking Trail
500 Mossie Blvd., North Versailles, PA 15137

Nothing beats a fall night than spending it outdoors getting chased by killer clowns and chain saw-wielding lunatics.

For those brave enough to spend an evening outside along the Haunted Hills Hayride and the Valley of Darkness Haunted Trail can find themselves facing their worst possible fear.

Open from 7 to 11 p.m. Thursday through Saturday.

Tickets are \$20 per attraction and must be purchased on site. Proceeds benefit the Autism Society of Pittsburgh.

Phantom Fall Fest
Kennywood Park 4800 Ken-

nywood Blvd., West Mifflin, PA 15122

If you prefer getting your fear by defying the laws of physics, then make sure to check out the Phantom Fall Fest at Kennywood park.

Open for all ages the amusement park transforms into an eerie park, filled with ghosts, ghouls and great food.

After 6 p.m. the terror begins as guests try to survive seven haunted houses and four scare zones throughout the park.

Tickets are \$79.99 but Kennywood is offering a sale online of \$29.99 each when you buy two.

Halloween Cruises - 350 W. Station Square Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Taking to the sea won't save you this Halloween season.

Grab your costumes and Hop on the Halloween themed Gateway Clipper cruise.

Enjoy authentic ghost stories, living-dead crew members and Tarot card readings.

A family friendly event that includes prizes, music and a costume party.

Tours are offered Friday through Sunday.

Admission is \$32.

THE DUKESNE DUKE

113 College Hall
600 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15282

editorial staff

editor-in-chief	Emma Polen
news editor	Megan Trotter
opinions editor	Zach Petroff
features editor	Isabella Abbott
a&e editor	Emily Fritz
sports editor	Spencer Thomas
multimedia editor	Brentaro Yamane
ads manager	Nicholas Zotos
layout editor	Emily Ambery

administrative staff

adviser Paula Reed Ward

email us: theduquduke@gmail.com

“Brevity
is the soul
of wit.”

William Shakespeare

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

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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.

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 theduquduke@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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COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The United Nations is reporting that 338,000 people have been displaced in Gaza since Hamas invaded Israel.

Finding a peaceful solution may seem impossible, but we have to try

Over the weekend, Hamas invaded Israeli territory on the 50th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War, and Israel responded by declaring war.

The Associated Press reports that more than 2,200 have died on both sides.

Much has been written in defense and support of both Hamas and the Israel Defense Forces actions.

I do not write this to support violence, but to mourn the violence. We should be constantly thinking of the tragedies that have led to this moment.

Instead of supporting war like we support sports teams, we should remember the tragedies and the humanity of the people involved.

Following the Holocaust, Israel was founded on Zionist principles. Zionism is an ideology based upon building a Jewish Nation State. As Israel was built on historically Arab land, nearby Arab nations fueled ethnic conflict, leading to multiple wars. Israel became heavily militarized in response to these threats.

Israel has also restricted the rights of Palestinian people and annexed Palestinian land, inspiring pro-Palestinian terrorists, most notably Hamas.

The winding road of cause and effect is a tragic spiral of violence. Pinning blame on one side over another becomes a futile exercise.

You can condemn the Holocaust and antisemitism without advocating for the creation of a religious ethnostate. You can condemn the eviction of Arabs without advocating for later wars. You can condemn the restriction of Palestinian rights without advocating for terrorism against Israel. You can condemn Hamas's invasion over the weekend without advocating for Israel's response. You can condemn Israel's response without advocating for Hamas's invasion.

However, in the end, the only thing that should matter is the useless deaths of innocent people.

Commentators often say this is a struggle between the Jews and the Arabs, or between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

Hamas has invaded and killed Israeli citizens, and the Israeli government has killed Palestinians. Hamas has killed, but that does not mean Palestinians are, as a people, culpable. The Netanyahu administration has killed, but that does not mean Israelis, and it certainly does not mean Jews,



JOHN CHEKAL

staff writer

as a people, are culpable.

There are governments and institutions committing great evils, and that is what should be condemned. We must remember the victims are people.

These atrocities are ordered by government leaders, while the consequences are bared by the most vulnerable. Prime Minister Netanyahu orders violence and oppression, but it is the civilians on the margin of society that suffer for it. The orphans, the poor and the most commonly forgotten among society are the first to be killed.

And worse yet, the structure of the conflict makes it so there is no easy solution.

The Netanyahu administration is built from a far-right political coalition, and to respond to their voters they have no incentive to build peace or overcome the ethnic conflict. Hamas is also supported in their violence, being funded by anti-Israeli nations like Iran. It appears that this conflict has no end in sight and will see rising tensions and more atrocities to come.

A peaceful solution seems far off. Although no side can fairly be blamed for this conflict, there is still a responsibility to build peace.

Absolution of guilt does not mean a lack of responsibility, and in this case one side has a greater responsibility. Hamas is a poorly funded group of militants. The Israeli Defense Force is one of the most well-trained militaries in the world. The Gaza Strip is a densely populated and impoverished territory.

What the Israeli government is currently threatening with a blockade is not war, it's akin to genocide. There is not a symmetrical conflict, but instead a much stronger power invading a destitute area threatening brutal violence with the support of most of the western world. Israel shouldn't be blamed for this violence, but they should be held responsible for building a long-term sustainable peace.

War is not a series of battles that are won or lost. Instead, every day of war is a loss for humanity. There is no amount of violence that justifies the murder of children or taking innocent civilians as hostages. We should, with a mind to the humanity of every victim, call for a system that will build a long-term peace and protect the inherent dignity of life.

This will not be easy, and there is no clear solution, but we should not support war when innocent people are being thrown into the violence.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Supporting our neighbors on the Hill

Duquesne University emphasizes the need to build a strong community on campus. But what about our neighbors in the Hill?

The Hill District is home to multiple historic sites. Some of these sites – many of them in the lower Hill – have been lost to history, but it is important to also remember the historic significance of the community that still persists today.

The Duke was there at Freedom Corner during the historic moments when Danielle Brown announced a settlement with Duquesne police and Pittsburghers celebratorily rallied when Derek Chauvin was found guilty in the murder of George Floyd.

Freedom Corner, as well as the other community gathering places remaining in the Hill District, act as remembrances of the familial bond found with the historically Black population residing in the neighborhood.

For generations, these communities centered in African American tradition have kept the Hill alive with music and celebration.

Count Basie and Duke Ellington played in the Hill District while jazz musicianship flourished in the area.

August Wilson, the famous Pittsburgh playwright in the late 20th-early 21st century, found his beginnings – and a majority of his inspiration for his protestary literary works – in the Hill District.

While the Hill's community has changed overtime, there are still ways Duquesne students can help preserve what is left of the historic tradition. Help keep the Hill's tradition alive by supporting local businesses and attending local events that celebrate Black art and culture.

Take a stroll to the Cultural District which houses small businesses like Black-female-owned CobblerWorld, a sweets shop on Penn Avenue that specializes in cobblers, sweet potato pie and other homemade southern delicacies.

August Wilson House, August Wilson Park and the annual August Wilson Birthday Block Party offer a chance to restore pride in the monumental literary works inspired right here in the heart of the city of Pittsburgh.

Non-profit Ujamaa Collective provides a marketplace for Africana Women to share their artistic cultural endeavors, and a place for all cultural backgrounds to shop together in support of maintaining tradition.

While we can't make up for the past failures of the city to support the vibrant community of the Hill District, we can retain what is kept in tradition now, in 2023. And for that, Duquesne must look beyond its borders to its neighbor, the Hill.

Pin Jim Jordan to the House Speaker

ZACH PETROFF
opinions editor

Jim Jordan and I have a lot in common. We are both from Ohio, we both coached wrestling and we both spend way too much time on social media.

And soon, both Jordan and I may share the experience of what it feels like to fail upward.

After the removal of House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, the Republican-led House nominated Steve Scalise, a congressman from Louisiana as his successor. Scalise beat Jordan by 113 votes to 99.

This does not mean it is the end for Jordan's chance to become the next Speaker of the House. With Republicans in control of the House, the next speaker will need to win near-unanimous support from his GOP colleagues.

I think it would behoove the Democrats to ditch their nomination of House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries and back Jordan to be the 56th Speaker of the House.

Since 2007, Ohioans have had to put up with Jordan, and it is about time the rest of the country witnessed the ineffectiveness that comes with his "leadership."

If Jordan steps into the spotlight and takes up this key position of leadership in the House, the Ohio congress-

man could find himself out of job come January, 2025.

Jordan currently resides in one of the safest Republican districts in the country. The fourth district, which spans across central Ohio resembling the shape of a duck, polls at a +14 R rating.

The district has been that way since 2011, when the Republican-controlled General Assembly, along with then Republican Governor John Kasich, redistricted the buckeye state. It created 16 congressional districts: four in Democratic hands and 12 in Republican hands.

Janet Garrett, Jim Jordan's opponent in the 2014, 2016 and 2018 elections, referred to the races as a "David and Goliath" type situation.

All that is set up to change after data from the 2020 Ohio census has Ohio losing a congressional seat, which means a redrawing of the district map.

In May 2019, a panel of three federal judges ruled that Ohio's congressional district map was unconstitutional and based on gerrymandering. A new map was expected ahead of the 2020 election. However, after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Rucho v. Common Cause* that courts could not review allegations of gerrymandering, the district boundaries were not changed until congressional district maps were redrawn in 2022.

Jordan's seat may not be as safe as it has been in recent years. It may take a little

more than his usual MAGA rhetoric to stay in office. His record on the Hill leaves much to be desired.

During this current session of Congress, Jordan has introduced just one bill and resolution, the fewest compared to the rest of the Ohio delegation. He has also co-sponsored the fewest bills, has not introduced any bills that have become laws nor introduced any bills that passed a committee and the floor for consideration.

None of Jordan's bills and resolutions had a companion bill in the Senate.

That's a lot of nothing for a guy who just yesterday posted seven times on X, formerly known as Twitter.

I understand the hesitancy to allow the Trump-endorsed candidate to serve in a position of leadership. I also understand not wanting a man who refused to cooperate with the House Select Committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol.

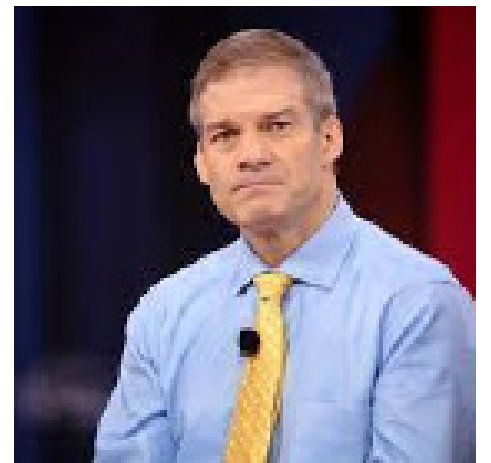
I also understand why the Democrats would agree with the four former Ohio State wrestlers who accused Jordan of failing to protect them from a sexual predator, that he has no business being the next Speaker of the House.

Politics is not about compromise; it is about winning. And if the Democrats are looking for long-term success while simultaneously dealing a blow to the Freedom Caucus, they need to cause as much tension among its MAGA members as possible.

He is an inefficient leader whose inability

to properly legislate is guarded by his gerrymandered district and the rabid fan base he caters to. It is my opinion that if the rest of the country could see just how ineffective this man is, it could sway just enough voters to get him out of congress and allow him much more time to be on X, formerly known as Twitter.

There is a saying in wrestling – quick to the pin, slow to the fall – and I think that is a sound strategy for the Democrats to adopt when dealing with the new Speaker of the House: Quickly elect Jim Jordan as the Speaker of the House and slowly watch him fall.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) still has a chance to become the next Speaker of the House

"FC24" misses goal in newest installment

ELIYAHU GASSON
staff writer

For a few short months, I was excited for the upcoming release of EA Sports' "FC24" on the Nintendo Switch. I had hoped that it would be a significant improvement over last year's disappointing, overpriced and miserable "FIFA 23 Legacy Edition."

Compared to the PlayStation, Xbox and PC version of "FIFA 23," the Switch release did not come with any updates in gameplay or graphics. Rather, consumers got updated kits, player stats and teams. Despite the lack of any substantial upgrades, EA charges Switch owners \$39.99, the same price that they had charged in past years since the release of "FIFA 2018" on the Switch.

"FC24" was released to the public on Sept. 29. While the graphics have been improved and the gameplay is a bit better, the Switch version is still lacking in many ways, with laggy motion graphics and game modes that don't always run as smoothly as their PlayStation, Xbox or PC counterparts. Despite the lackluster performance of the new "FC24," EA Sports increased the price to \$59.99.

"FC24" requires the download of a release day patch. Granted, the patch is free as are all subsequent updates to the game. However, the time and storage space required to install said patches can become inconvenient

pretty fast.

To add insult to injury, the AI in "FC24" is almost as bad as it was in previous installments, and passing in the game is as frustrating as it has been in the past. Worst of all, the series still contains microtransactions, those terrible in-game purchases required to enjoy certain parts of the game that you paid full price for.

"FC24" is one example of how video game developers are exploiting the time and money of consumers with in-game purchases and post-release updates despite charging \$60 to \$70 upon release.

It's becoming increasingly common for video games to be released unfinished, with developers relying on post-release updates to add essential features and content. This is a cynical practice that allows developers to get games out the door on time, even if they're not ready.

"Cyberpunk 2077" is another example of a game that was released unfinished, with developers relying on post-release updates to fix bugs and add essential features. The game was so buggy and unplayable for many at launch that it was removed from the PlayStation Store for several months. Despite this, CD Project Red, the game's developer, continued to sell "Cyberpunk 2077" at full price.

"No Man's Sky" is another game that was released before it was ready, with developers promising to add features and content that were not included in

the launch version. Hello Games, the developer of "No Man's Sky," has since released a number of major updates, but some players still feel that the game is not what it was promised to be. Even after a number of large updates, promised features such as unique ships and the ability to land on asteroids are still not available to players without third party modifications.

Microtransactions are another trope that plagues many modern day titles. "Roblox" and "Minecraft" are two popular franchises that contain microtransactions, both of which appeal mainly to children.

In "Minecraft," players have the ability to trade their real-world dollars into proprietary Minecoins. Minecoins can then be used to purchase popular skins and texture packs. In "Roblox," players can purchase in game currency called Robux. Robux can be used to buy items, games and other content on the platform, including loot boxes.

While microtransactions are optional, they are often designed to be as addictive as possible. Some games, like Roblox, use loot boxes, which are virtual containers that hold random items. Players can purchase loot boxes with real money, but they never know what they are going to get. It is essentially the same as playing slots in Las Vegas, though you don't win money. The sense of anticipation and excitement created can be addictive to some players.

Loot boxes have been compared to

gambling, as players are essentially gambling with real money in the hope of getting the items that they want. This is a particular problem for gambling addicts, who are more likely to spend large amounts of money on loot boxes in an attempt to get items that they want.

The trend of video game developers releasing unfinished games and relying on post-release updates to fix them, and the use of microtransactions to exploit gamers, is a bad thing, though, it doesn't take a genius to figure that out.

Gamers deserve the same consumer protections that everyone else does. They deserve to receive the products that they are promised when they pay for them and they should not have to worry about whether or not they will be at a disadvantage if they do not spend money on in-game purchases.



COURTESY OF TRUSTED REVIEWS

"FC24" on the Nintendo Switch leaves much to be desired for gamers.



Come Visit Us
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WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS

Contact our
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polene@duq.edu



Caribbean dinner brings culture to campus

BRIDGET ABBOTT

staff writer

Passing the Towers Multipurpose room on Oct. 5, students could smell the rich aroma of Caribbean cuisine and listen to the rhythm of steel drums.

The Center for African Studies and the Honors College hosted a Caribbean Culture Dinner to celebrate diversity and inclusivity on campus and teach students more about Caribbean food and culture.

The event included a tasty dinner catered by Leon's Caribbean Restaurant, a live steel drum performance and steel drum lessons.

Students and staff came together in the Towers MPR room to enjoy the menu of jerk chicken, rice, beans and plantains.

As guests arrived, they were welcomed by the savory aromas of Caribbean cuisine and were able to enjoy popular songs like "Under the Sea," "Uptown Funk" and "Margaritaville" played on steel drums before having their own lessons on the instrument.

Kadey Tillman, a senior and student aide for the Center for African Studies, hopes to continue to spread cultural awareness in the remaining weeks of the semester through events like the Caribbean Cultural Dinner.

"I feel like it's very important to bring awareness to all cultures," Tillman said. "Events like this just get everyone with-

in the community on campus to know what's going on, and give them a chance to learn about each other."

Greg Olikenyi also enjoyed his time at the event after being invited by the Center for African Studies.

He expressed his gratitude for the organization celebrating other cultures through food and music.

"I like the diversity and multicultural character of Duquesne," Olikenyi said. "We are international and multicultural, and that diversity came here today through such music, showcasing aspects of global culture."

Olikenyi said that the event resonated with him and fellow students in attendance.

"I'm glad that the Center for African Studies had this event," Olikenyi said. "It gives people a chance to have contact with the outside world from America and have a global mind set."

The Center for African Studies strives to create and encourage opportunities for students and staff alike to experience the rich traditions and cultures of Africa.

Mara McDonough, the management assistant for the center also shared her excitement about hosting the cultural event.

"I think it's the only way to bring people together and to learn about other cultures," McDonough said. "We host lots of super cool monthly events."



COURTESY OF MARA McDONOUGH

During the Caribbean dinner on Thursday night, students were able to practice playing on steel drums. Some of the songs played included "Uptown Funk" and "Under the Sea."

McDonough added that the center hosts this event every fall, including the steel drum performance and lessons, for anyone who missed it this time around.

The organization will host their next event Thursday in Towers MPR, where

they will provide materials to make DIY Hanging Air Plants from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Free food will also be provided.

The center encourages all students to attend their events to learn more about different cultures on campus.

🐾🐾🐾🐾 All pets deserve love 🐾🐾🐾🐾

ISABELLA ABBOTT

features editor

Hugo, a disabled dog who lives at Duquesne, was hit by a car one day worrying his parents who weren't sure if he'd make it. After waiting two long days in the ER with no improvements, Hugo miraculously survived his third day.

Though disabled pets are typically more work and require more care, recognizing disabled animals is becoming a more normalized phenomenon, in both the local Pittsburgh community as well as on campus.

Olliver Paddington, a disabled Virginia opossum from Pa. recently won a spot in the 2024 Walkin' Pets Calendar.

The competition featured entries from 26 different countries and includes pets from all around the world using wheelchairs from the Walkin' Pets organization.

Walkin' Pets is an organization based in New Hampshire whose mission is to help people learn that there are alternatives to euthanasia.

According to their website, they believe that an elderly, disabled, or injured pet can often live a high-quality life for many years if they get the help they need, such as diapers or a wheelchair.

After suffering an attack as a small baby, causing major bite wounds, abscesses and a spinal cord injury, Olli, the opossum, was deemed "non-releasable" by his veterinarian due to his inability to walk normally.

He was brought to his now owner Berri, who saved him and loves caring for him and her other opossums.

Though he underwent months of physical therapy after the attack, he still couldn't support weight on his back legs, meaning wheels were necessary.



COURTESY OF KORRINE AVERILL

Hugo, pictured here, is a disabled dog on campus. After losing all feeling in his hind legs on a random day a year after getting hit by a car, his owner, Korrine, decided to give him the best life possible.

So Berri reached out to a fellow rehabber whose opossum Kewpie passed away, and soon after, Olli received his very own wheelchair in memory of Kewpie.

Olli's owner, Cheri Berri, said she was thrilled when Olli first received wheels allowing him to run and experience movement.

"The first time Olli had mobility in his wheelchair, I seriously felt such joy seeing him upright and not dragging his little body," Berri said. "I have to admit, I teared up."

Berri understands how important it is to give animals their lives back after an accident or injury. She said it's "all worth it," but it takes effort.

"Be ready for a lot of extra work, expenses and challenges," Berri said.

Duquesne University student Korrine Averill has her eight-year-old disabled dog at school with her, and like Berri, she acknowledges the challenges and the joys of having a disabled animal.

Her dog Hugo was hit by a car two years ago and made a full recovery. At first, her parents weren't sure that they could afford to save him.

"He was in the ER for two days, and he wasn't making any improvements, and my parents were like, 'We love him, but it's really expensive,' and I said, 'Just give him one more day,'" Averill said. "And that day, he started walking and eating, and he came back home normal except wearing a diaper."

However, a year later, he couldn't walk. "I woke up one day, and he just couldn't

walk anymore," Averill said. "It was really hard in the beginning just to learn how to handle that because he was a dog that couldn't walk or go to the bathroom on his own."

Though Hugo was back at home for a while and Averill was in college, she decided to take him with her as an emotional support dog last year.

She said he loves it at Duquesne and is doing much better with her at school.

"I had him come live with me as an emotional support dog because I was really down in the dumps," Averill said. "But when I have Hugo, I have to get out of bed because he needs me, he needs me to feed him, and he needs to be taken to the bathroom."

Averill said he always makes her smile no matter what.

"He always makes me happy, always makes me laugh, and even though he can't walk, he can still do all of those things," Averill said. "It just takes a little extra effort, a little extra love, and I know that I'm making a difference for him."

When Hugo was first hit, Averill's mother put out flyers along the road asking who hit their family dog noting that it devastated six children.

At one point, someone came up to say the same thing happened to her family dog and said they're always worth saving.

"They were like, 'I can tell you that it is hard, but it is so fulfilling, it's so worth it because you can still give them a good life,' and I just really agreed with what they said," Averill said.

Berri knows every pet deserves a good life, even if it takes a little extra time and care.

"I wholeheartedly believe that every creature deserves the best chance at life," Berri said. "When an animal, no matter what species, is in our care, we have the responsibility to help."

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