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Blue bags begone!

REBECCA DONNELLY
staff writer

Don't forget your reusable bags when shopping for Halloween candy this year because plastic grocery bags will be officially banned in all operating retail establishments within the City of Pittsburgh starting Oct. 14.

According to a release from City Council, Americans use an estimated 100 billion plastic bags per year. These bags often end up littering the streets and sidewalks, which increases the presence of microplastics in our soil. In order to promote a healthier and more sustainable community, the City of Pittsburgh passed the Plastic Bag Ban in April of 2022.

The ban includes the prohibition of plastic bags for checkout, pick-up and delivery.

Erika Strassburger, City Councilperson, was the first to propose the Plastic Bag Ban in Pittsburgh, with the purpose of changing destructive behaviors toward the environment.

"Plastic bags will be prohibited at point of sale, and paper bags for \$0.10 will be offered instead," she said.

She hopes the fee incentivizes customers to bring their own reusable bags to stores.

Plastic bags are a major contributor to climate change because they are made from oil, which is a non-renewable natural resource.

According to a study conducted by Penn State University, the standard plastic bag will take about 1,000 years to fully biodegrade.

Strassburger said that while paper bags are a slightly more environmentally friendly alternative, paper bags also lead to the clearcutting of forests, which is the complete removal of all trees in one operation.

While retailers are not required to provide alternative bags at checkout, if they offer paper carryout bags, they are prohibited from containing old-growth fiber and must be made from at least 40 percent

see BAGS — page 3

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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Duquesne hosts the conversation: Demystifying Gender-Affirming Care



AVA RIEGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Michael Murphy (left), Julia Reedy (middle) and Ralph Klotzbaugh each provided a different perspective on the passage of City Council's bill to become a sanctuary city. They are concerned about the resources currently available to transgender individuals and how they will hold up after

MEGAN TROTTER
news editor

On the heels of the passage of Pittsburgh's gender-affirming sanctuary city bill on Sept. 12 a group of Duquesne panelists discussed potential implications.

While they praise the concept they question the practical ramifications of potentially inviting large numbers of transgender people into the city for care.

The event was hosted by Sigma Tau Delta, Department of English and McAnulty College of Liberal Arts Women's and Gender Studies. Panelists included assistant professor Ralph Klotzbaugh, recent Duquesne graduate Michael Murphy and counseling intern Julia Reedy.

The trio discussed the underlying implications of the bill's passage and what this change could look like for transgender individuals in and around the Pittsburgh area. While Pittsburgh's declaration of sanctuary seemed like a step forward, they were concerned about the extreme lack of available resources.

Reedy already said she has already experienced severe issues caused by understaffing.

"My practice that I work at has

probably 30 counselors who take on upwards of 30 clients a week. That's a lot of people, and we still aren't able to help everyone. It's just not possible," she said.

The bill passed with an 8-0 vote and amended a 2011 ordinance designating Pittsburgh as a "Human Rights City." According to *Pitt News*, "The bill will protect healthcare providers, as well as recipients of care and their legal guardians, from out-of-state investigation or prosecution."

Pittsburgh has had a few moments in history for showing support for transgender rights. In 2016, Pittsburgh City Council unanimously voted to ban conversion therapy for minors who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.

"Gender-affirming care is health care that needs to be accessible for all individuals because it does save lives," Reedy said. "In theory, if people were able to afford to move en masse to Pittsburgh and everyone wanted to seek out counseling, it would be extremely difficult," Reedy said.

Murphy, the self-proclaimed "Trans studies scholar," graduated from Duquesne with a master's degree in English last May. He was surprised that the bill passed

with emerging anti-trans voices within the Pittsburgh community, like the targeted harassment from neighbors towards local North Shore teenager.

Murphy also spoke of his own negative experience after coming out in his freshman year of college. During this time, Duquesne was unable to resolve housing issues for him, and because of this, Murphy often had to sleep on a couch in the Student Union.

To make sure no other students have to endure a similar situation, Murphy has been urging Duquesne to answer a series of questions:

- "What would it look like if we saw an influx of people who wanted to stay on campus longer to avoid going home more than we already do?"
- What if the number of people who need to access certain types of services increases because of effects that are going on outside the state and not so much stuff here?
- And then also, what would it look like if there were any sort of uptick in violence or harassment living around the city?
- What sort of recourse will we be doing to prepare our students for that or to support

them through that in an increased capacity?"

"I've actively been considering moving somewhere else," Murphy said. "I hear them. I definitely understand what they're saying. But it is much more the interpersonal day-to-day social interactions that I'm worried about."

Beyond Duquesne's nursing school, Klotzbaugh fears that there is a widespread lack of education in health care on how to care for transgender individuals.

"From an academic standpoint, we're not where we need to be at all in terms of including this education," they said. "We just have to get the next generations of providers up to snuff with meeting the needs that we're going to have with an influx of trans-identified folks here. We have, inversely, a very small amount of providers that have a working knowledge of trans-specific care."

In 2021, Columbia University School of Nursing began offering the first postmaster's certification in LGBTQ+ health. However, Klotzbaugh is unhappy with this program because it "smacks of

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POLICE BRIEFS

Tuesday, Sept. 26-

A student called Duquesne Police to report a male flashing his genitalia at patrons. Officers canvassed the area to find the actor but did not.

Wednesday, Sept. 27-

Facilities Management maintenance from the Cooper Field House reported that eight brass fire valve caps and gaskets were removed from hose lines on all eight levels of the northeast stairwell of the Forbes Avenue Garage.

Sunday, Oct. 1-

Duquesne Police were dispatched to St. Ann Hall for a marijuana complaint. Officers met with Residence Life staff who conducted an administrative search and found contraband. Two citations were issued.

EMAIL TIPS

The Duke's news section would love to hear from you about stories that you want to see in print. Know a talented professor or accomplished student? See something on campus that just doesn't make sense? You can send your tips and story ideas to Editor-in-Chief Emma Polen at polene@duq.edu

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The flaws and fears of Pittsburgh declaring itself gender-affirming sanctuary

from GENDER — page 1

greed." They think that the program was built to get money out of people who already want to learn and have a vested interest in doing that.

"LGBTQ inclusive care should be understood and known by everyone. It's not a specialty if it's not an exotic implication. We're human beings," Klozbaugh said.

The legal ramifications that will result from caring for transgender individuals also worry the panelists.

"Pittsburgh is going to deprioritize any kind of lawsuits brought against our profession," Klozbaugh said. "But what does that mean to me? Does that provide me any kind of comfort? The short answer to that is no."

The speakers pointed to the fact that even though Pittsburgh isn't actively searching to stop or punish these procedures, it doesn't necessarily mean surrounding, more conservative areas won't. Despite all the unknowns, the



AVA RIEGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Murphy said he has seen Duquesne's Counseling Center grow to include transgender individuals since he graduated.

panelists feel the sanctuary city bill is a step in the right direction.

"It shows that we are still moving in a positive direction toward

equitable health care for all individuals. It shows that a lot of people will continue to have stayed in jobs and health care and counsel-

ing and education. It shows that people are truly giving a [expletive] about their fellow human beings," Reedy said.

Supply chain speaker talks Covid

MAX MARCELLO

staff writer

Managing a supply chain is a daunting task for any organization, regardless of size.

On Wednesday, students were presented with a glimpse as to how real-world companies navigate the tightrope of managing supply.

Matthew Drake and the Duquesne Supply Chain Council hosted Chris Gawrych, the production manager at Four Horsemen Productions and D13 toys. Gawrych addressed students on how the international supply chain impacts small businesses.

Four Horsemen Productions is a small New Jersey-based toy company that produces action figures for their original product line series Mythic Legions, Cosmic Legions and Pictura Obscura.

Gawrych, who also serves as the company's factory liaison, has made over 45 trips overseas to China to ensure a smooth supply.

Four Horsemen Productions goes extra lengths to avoid large retailers such as Target or Walmart.

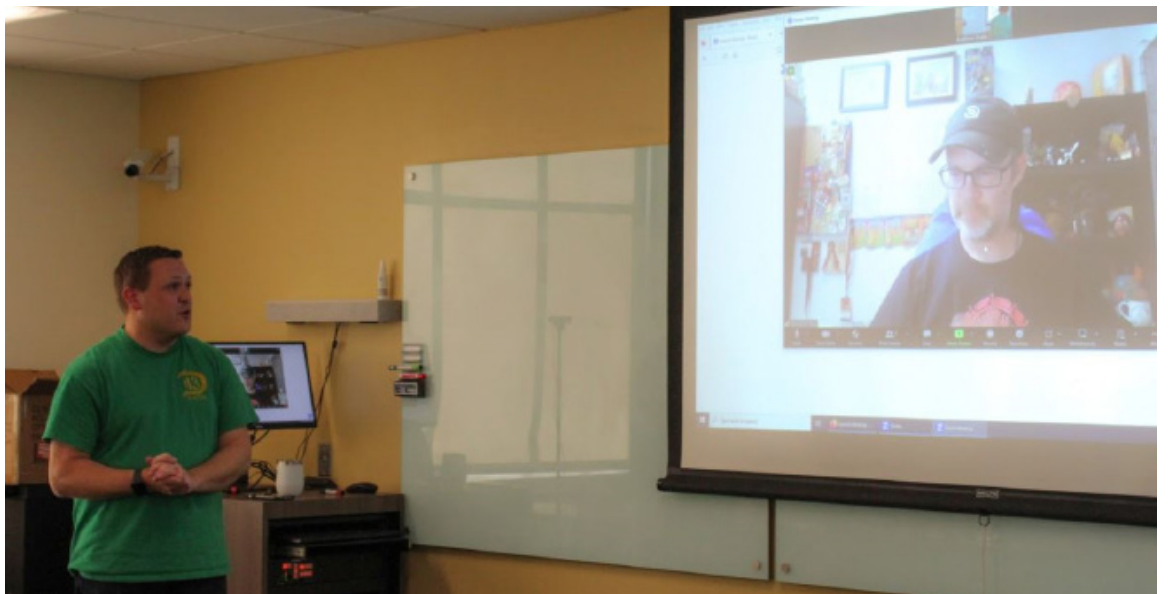
"We don't have to deal with large retailers because they control a lot of production and take a large chunk out of your pocket," Gawrych said.

The event was organized by Drake, a supply chain professor at the Palumbo Business School. A longtime fan of Four Horsemen Production action figures, Drake reached out to Gawrych for the event.

Drake got in contact because of his personal interests as well as a noticeable surge in curiosity in his classes around supply chain management in large part due to recent events.

Covid was a historic disruption to the international supply chain causing mass shortages of millions of goods.

"We saw that during the pandemic, when we had disruptions in one part of the world...sort of butterfly or mushrooming into disruptions. There were



AVA RIEGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Matthew Drake (left) and Chris Gawrych (right) talk about Covid disruptions on the small business supply chain. Supply Chain Counsel attended to hear Gawrych's 20 years of experience working in the field.

shortages of seemingly everything," Drake said. "One action in one part of the world can really have major impact in other parts that affect whether or not you will have the ability to buy a car, soap to wash your hands and the toilet paper you need."

Gawrych said that a small company he can leverage personal connections with the factory managers in addition to a flexible schedule. His greatest piece of advice was the importance of being adaptable to rapid changes in supply.

Covid proved to be both a blessing and a curse to the company as it increased the company's demand and did not impede the supply of raw materials.

In addition to his role at Four Horsemen Productions, Gawrych is also an entrepreneur spearheading D13, a successful Kickstarter project that produces Biblical action figures. He advised students who are considering starting or participating in small businesses the common

pitfalls of Kickstarter in addition to the importance of consistently producing quality products.

Nixon Barnes, a senior supply chain management major, was one of many students in attendance.

Barnes has been a member of the Supply Chain Council since his junior year and looks forward to events where he can learn.

"Gawrych explained the intricate details about production in China and how manufacturers can utilize profitable connections in China to deliver a lower-priced product to American consumers," he said.

Barnes also explained how his personal experience with supply chain shortages during the pandemic reaffirmed his belief in the importance of a dynamic supply chain.

The speaking event focused on providing insight to students making their way into the field.

The council's president, senior Olivia Greene, talked about the networking mission of the organization.

"We tend to bring in alumni that are still connected to the univer-

sity that are local to Pittsburgh," she said, "and oftentimes will also have people who are hiring managers that can hire Duquesne students and are looking for Duquesne talent."

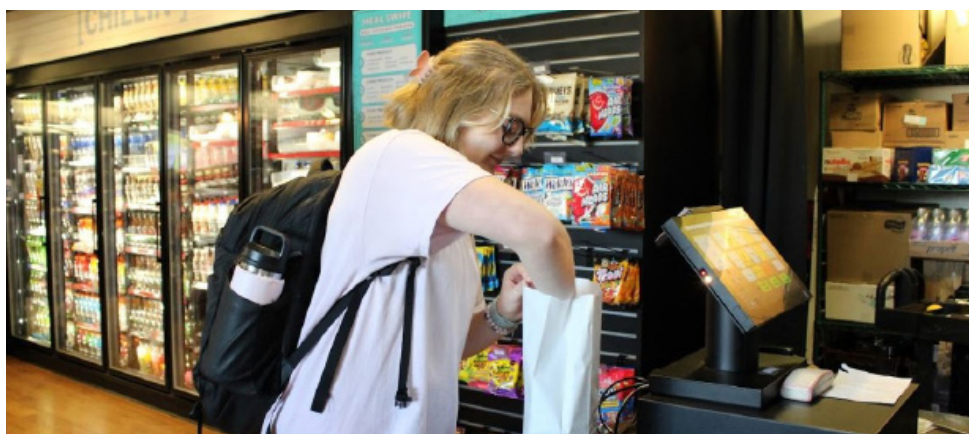
Secretary Jeremy Rawicz also noted the importance of giving students opportunities to network with smaller companies.

"One of the reasons we were excited to have Four Horsemen Productions and Chris Gawrych was so they could provide a different perspective on supply chain," Rawicz said. "A lot of times we have large companies and miss out on this perspective."

The Duquesne Supply Chain Council is sponsoring another event on Oct. 11 in the Power Center from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. fourteen businesses are attending to give students insight into real-world supply chain management and an opportunity to network.

Students interested in supply chain management are encouraged to attend.

Say goodbye to the blue plastic bags on campus 3



DELANEY KRAUS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kylie Mosler fills up her paper bag with Campus Market snacks and treats to prepare for the day.

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post-consumer recycled content.

Retailers are also permitted to provide reusable bags made from materials specifically de-

signed and manufactured for multiple reuses.

Janet Baine, a Giant Eagle employee, said that although customers aren't happy about the ban, they will be switching to all paper bags.

"We need to keep Pittsburgh clean, and

I think that banning plastic bags is a great place to start. Once our customers see the benefits it's going to have on our city, they will accept it," she said.

The ban applies to all retail establishments in Pittsburgh where food or other products are sold, and bags are used for carryout items or delivery. This includes but is not limited to department stores, restaurants, supermarkets, clothing stores, cafeterias, festivals, food trucks, farmers' markets and delivery services.

While the ban greatly affects Pittsburgh retailers, it will also impact local universities. John Levi, the Resident District Manager for Duquesne University Dining, said that Duquesne will be participating in the ban.

"We wholeheartedly support the city of Pittsburgh's efforts in this landmark initiative to promote a cleaner, more sustainable community by reducing the number of single-use plastic bags," said Levi.

Duquesne Dining will offer students, faculty and staff affordable, reusable totes to

purchase at various university dining locations to replace single-use plastic bags.

Levi said that while they are offering reusable totes to purchase, Duquesne still encourages students and others to utilize their own reusable bags. Duquesne plans to reach out to students through a marketing campaign leading up to the Oct. 14 ban.

Cities such as Seattle, Los Angeles, and San Francisco have already prohibited plastic bags from being used by their retailers, and now the trend has come to the east coast.

While the Plastic Bag Ban is a big step for Pittsburgh environmentally, the city still has a lot further to go.

Strassburger said her next focus is Pittsburgh's Climate Action Plan, which has a goal to improve air and water quality. While she doesn't see any more bans coming in the near future, she hopes for more collaborative work between the city and its partners, including the counties.

Strassburger's ultimate goal: a zero-waste future for Pittsburgh.

Bite-sized service with big impacts

EMMA POLEN
editor-in-chief

Three years ago, a Temple University study found that nearly 40% of students in higher education experienced food insecurity.

The newest of Duquesne's own across-campus service ventures is the Center for Migration, Displacement and Community Studies' food pantry, located on the third floor of College Hall. Food security for the campus community is the reason for their arrival to the McNulty School of Liberal Arts, and the driving force behind their continued efforts.

In 2018, about 30% of Duquesne students experienced moderate to high food insecurity, with another 20% at-risk for food insecurity, according to a study on food insecurity at universities in Southwestern PA that the migration center posted on their spring fundraising site.

Dr. Jennie Schulze, a professor in political sciences and international relations, is the faculty advisor for Migration Club, which is the organization responsible for staffing the food pantry and making sure the shelves are stocked on a daily basis.

"Food security is one of the biggest reasons people pick up and go someplace else," Schulze said. "So, tackling issues of food security fits really well with the mission of the Center."

The Center for Migration, Displacement and Community Studies has held campus activities before, but the food pantry has been their largest fundraising project yet, in addition to being inclusive to the entire campus community.

"It's been amazing just seeing how many people want to be a part of it, with volunteering but also [who] want to make use of the pantry," Schulze said.

Sao Mai Nguyen came in to the Migration Club as a freshman this year. As a second-generation Vietnamese American, she said she was interested in looking into displaced people and seeing what's going on in the world. Now, Nguyen runs the promotional material for the club.

Aside from "full stomachs," Migration Club's efforts to promote the pantry aim to offer awareness about food insecurity and destigmatize its effects on students and the surrounding community, Nguyen said.

Duquesne's own campus is situated in a

food desert, the Hill District. Nguyen hopes that, with help from the club's messaging, the campus community can become more accepting of individuals with nutritional needs, and those facing challenges feel safe looking for security.

Additional events the club plans to host this semester include a how-to cooking class and canning event, which Schulze said are in the works for later this semester, in order to offer suggestions for ways to use the pantry's offerings.

Linda Rendulic, assistant to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, has also played a major role in moving the Center for Migration, Displacement and Community Studies' efforts forward.

"We know the importance that good food and eating healthy have on our mind and body, yet we have learned that there are students who do not have enough to eat and are struggling to manage financially," Rendulic said. "This is another way that we can 'Serve God by serving students.'"

The faculty's support for the food pantry's efforts have not gone unnoticed. Jason Minicozzi, president of Migration Club and senior in the liberal arts college, especially thanked Rendulic for her efforts in helping the club move forward with growing the pantry to assist more in need.

Minicozzi himself was tasked with the important mission of grant writing for the Migration Club's service efforts. The food pantry's primary means of fundraising has been through private NGOs and crowdfunding through the university, but campus community donations also help, he said.

"As students stop by to pick up food for the week, our inventory decreases quickly," Rendulic said. "With donations from the campus community, they will ensure that our students will continue to eat well and have the nourishment to learn, think, exercise and live a healthy life."

Other established food pantries on campus, in Rangos, the Nursing school (Fisher) and Brother Keating's Initiative, have offered nothing but overwhelming support.

The Center for Migration, Displacement and Community Studies pantry, while located in the college of liberal arts, is open to all students, faculty and staff at the university.

"We have options for everyone," Minicozzi said, emphasizing the pantry's discreet



EMMA POLEN | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Nguyen scans through dry goods to monitor the pantry's inventory before the next food restock.

operations.

While the pantry asks, optionally, for visitors to sign in by noting their school of study and position (student, faculty or adjunct professor), this information is solely for the purpose of seeing where best to place their promotional efforts in the future.

Those who are unable to make it during the pantry's hours can pick up pre-packaged food any time. More information for this request can be found by emailing migrationclub@duq.edu.

In April, the Duke reported that the food pantry was in its initial phases. This fall, the pantry is fully operational for the first time ever, and it already hosts a number of perishable and non-perishable items.

Currently, the pantry receives fresh vegetables, including peppers, cherry tomatoes and lettuce from the Laval House garden. Additionally, they also offer milk, bread and frozen meats, and non-perishable food and personal hygiene items.

Migration Club currently purchases discounted dry goods from the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank. Once partnered with the food bank, which will be later this semester, the campus pantry will also be able to purchase perishable goods at a similar discount price during the winter months when the campus gardens are not

in season.

To avoid wasting any unused food, food close to its expiration typically ends up in the faculty lounges, Minicozzi said.

Migration Club has added a number of rooms on the third floor of College Hall in their efforts of expanding the pantry and providing even more to the campus community.

The club is looking for new volunteers to expand the hours they have the pantry open, to help with stocking goods on Mondays and to make the club's efforts more long-term.

More information about potential donations and volunteer opportunities can be found at the Center for Migration, Displacement and Community Studies' page on the Duquesne University website.

"As with any charitable project, many others are needed to make it a success. Not only is leadership key, but the donors are just as valuable. We need them if we are to succeed," Rendulic said.

With additional support from the campus community, the Center for Migration, Displacement and Community Studies will continue to make a difference, one can of Chef Boyardee at a time.

"A community pantry FOR the community," Nguyen said.



Come Visit Us
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WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS

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



WSOC continues unbeaten run in Atlantic-10

JACK MORGAN
staff writer

The Duquesne women's soccer team earned a hard-fought 1-1 draw after falling behind early against UMass on Sept. 28.

Things got interesting in the 11th minute, when a shot from UMass hit the hand of Duquesne's Anna Campanella in the box. This resulted in a penalty kick being awarded to UMass. Bella Recinos took the kick, aiming it toward the bottom left of the goal. However, Maddy Neundorfer rose to the occasion, falling into a split to make the save.

Neundorfer mentioned watching film and studying the PK taken by UMass defender Fiona Kane against Davidson on Sept. 24. Remembering that, she said, "I just trusted my instincts and just went for it."

UMass didn't give up and continued to create opportunities. They finally capitalized in the 31st minute. Following a great pass into the box by Juliana Ryan, Recinos beat Neundorfer low to put the Minutewomen in front.

Ashley Lamond had a chance to put her side up by two when she sliced a shot to the bottom left of the goal. But Neundorfer was there to make a fantastic save to steal a goal from Lamond.

Brianna Moore responded just minutes later. Moore received the ball from Cami Taylor to the left of the Dukes logo at midfield, moved in and launched a shot from inside 25 yards out that sailed over Bella Mendoza's outstretched hands to tie the game in the 43rd minute.

Taylor's assist on the Moore goal was her second of the season and her third as a Duke.

This was Moore's fifth goal of the year, and three of those have come in conference play.

"Our bench was electric," Moore said. "We really wanted to come out and play hard."

The first of seven yellow cards in the match was shown to Emma Bundy when she came flying toward the midfield line to tackle Ryan.

Duquesne came out with a flurry of chances to take the lead in the 47th minute. Jaydan Sharpless took a shot at the goal from afar, and it was tapped over by Mendoza. She was not done being tested though, as Mackenzie Muir took the ball just seconds after a failed corner kick and ripped toward the box. The ball knocked off the head of UMass defender Hannah Peric and ricocheted off the top crossbar and out.

In the 49th minute, Duquesne's lead was threatened again when Libby Majka played the ball ahead to Jaimi Araujo who cut in to the left and missed her mark to the left of the goal.

UMass' Juliana Ryan continued her search to contribute to the score line twice in the 54th minute as she powered a shot to the top left corner. But Neundorfer was there for the stop.

In the 63rd minute, Duquesne almost scored off of a corner kick from Margey Brown. Maya Matesa got a touch on the ball off the corner that hit off the right crossbar.

In the 74th minute, UMass had their

golden opportunity when Nia Hislop got the ball in the box after it got tapped around from both teams, but her shot on goal was stopped by Neundorfer.

Juliana Ryan earned a second yellow in the 83rd minute, causing UMass to be down a player for the final seven minutes.

"I think it was really good that we kept our composure and kept the game in our hands and didn't react," Moore said.

Duquesne squandered a big chance to break the tie late when a cross from Lamond deflected toward Macy Graves, who proceeded to clang the ball off the right post.

With the draw, Duquesne is off to their best start in the Atlantic-10 Conference in seven years.

"We're taking practice more seriously," Moore said, "but also having fun and working on the things we need to work on."

In 2016, the Dukes went 5-0 to start their conference schedule. This year's squad is also unbeaten in league play so far with a 2-0-3 record.

Duquesne will try to improve on their conference record when they head to Philadelphia to take on Saint Joseph's on Saturday Afternoon.



DYLAN FISTER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Duquesne's Ally Campanella tries to run ahead of a UMass player for possession on Thursday.

Penguins know the time to win is right now

MICHAEL O'GRADY
staff writer

It was an unusual April in Pittsburgh this year, because for the first time since 2006, the Pittsburgh Penguins failed to make the Stanley Cup Playoffs.

The 16-year run was the longest active play-off streak in hockey and included four Eastern Conference titles and three Stanley Cups.

The Penguins had been in a three-team race for two Wild Card spots with the New York Islanders and Florida Panthers for much of the 2022-23 season, and the team controlled their own destiny to clinch the final seed on April 11.

However, a shocking loss at home to the



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
The Pittsburgh Penguins will try to make a return to the playoffs this season.

abysmal Chicago Blackhawks allowed New York to clinch the next night and end Pittsburgh's season devastatingly early.

In response to the failure, Fenway Sports Group cleaned house and fired general manager Ron Hextall and Director of Hockey Operations Brian Burke hours after the season ended.

Though they'd been hired in emergency conditions, higher-ups and fans agreed that they'd not done enough to reach the team's primary objective: build a championship-caliber supporting cast around Sidney Crosby, Evgeni Malkin and Kris Letang.

Even though those three names have already ascended into the ranks of Pittsburgh sports legends, they are still the city's best chance at winning a championship anytime soon.

Besides being engraved on the Stanley Cup three separate times, their resumes speak for themselves: Letang is a two-time all-star and the highest-scoring defenseman in franchise history, with 691 points over 17 seasons, Malkin has won a Hart, Smythe and two Art Ross Trophies averaging over a point per game in the same timeframe and Crosby is in the inner circle of NHL legends on the back of two Harts, two Art Rosses, two Smythes and two Rocket Richard Trophies while accumulating 1,502 points over 18 seasons.

The 2023 season was particularly wasted because Malkin and Letang had rejuvenated years, while the ageless Crosby had put up his usual standard of greatness with 93 points in 82 games. The 36-year-old Malkin played the full season, something he hadn't done since he was 22, and had one of his best seasons yet with 83 points. Letang, despite suffering a stroke and a lower-body

injury, was still able to reach 41 points over 64 games.

With this kind of production coming from the Big Three, FSG had to find a general manager candidate who wouldn't waste the final years of their careers, and they found one in Kyle Dubas.

Dubas, who is less than a year older than Malkin, was let go by the Toronto Maple Leafs after another playoff exit despite icing one of the best offenses in the league. Pittsburgh jumped at the chance to hire him.

Dubas began his offseason by flipping a third-round pick to Vegas for Reilly Smith, an instrumental cog in the Golden Knights's Cup win in June.

Days later, he signed veteran forwards Lars Eller, Noel Acciari and Matt Nieto.

All three are expected to make up for the depth that Pittsburgh has previously lacked in their bottom six. He reaffirmed confidence in goaltender Tristan Jarry with a five-year contract, and signed for Calder Trophy finalist Alex Nedeljkovic to back him up.

Not done yet, Dubas made his signature move at the start of August. Needing more from the blue line, he orchestrated a three-team trade that brought in reigning Norris Trophy winner Erik Karlsson from San Jose.

Despite being on the wrong side of 30, Karlsson experienced the best season of his decorated career in 2023 with 101 points, a mark a defenseman hadn't hit since 1992.

Clearly in win-now mode, the Penguins hope the new faces will complement what they had already.

Under two-time Cup winning head coach Mike Sullivan, who they kept amid the firings, they'll bring back their formidable first line around Crosby, who will center Bryan

Rust and goalscorer Jake Guentzel.

The second line looks impressive as well with Malkin centering Smith and Rickard Rakell. Both of these lines were among the top 20 in all of hockey last season.

In the bottom six, Eller is expected to play between Nieto and Drew O'Connor on the third line and the fourth line should consist of Acciari, 38-year-old Jeff Carter and either Rem Pitlick or Alex Nylander.

On defense, Graves and Letang make up the first pairing, followed by a shoot-first Karlsson next to a pass-first Marcus Pettersson.

A third pair of P.O. Joseph and Chad Ruhwedel, round out the blue line in front of Jarry, who has struggled in past seasons, especially on his glove side.

Despite the retooling, gone are the days where Pittsburgh can expect a playoff spot waiting for them.

Although the Metropolitan Division isn't as strong as it's been of late, new teams have become forerunners: Two of which are the Carolina Hurricanes and their iron-tight defense and the New Jersey Devils, who are ushering in Jack Hughes's prime.

Behind them sit the New York Islanders and Rangers, two up-and-down teams with world class goalies Ilya Sorokin and Igor Shesterkin, respectively, and a 38-year-old Alex Ovechkin is still scoring 40 goals a year for the rival Washington Capitals.

Pittsburgh is throwing everything into these next two seasons, desperately trying to make the most of some of the greatest hockey players of all time. They'll get a chance to prove they aren't last year's team when they look for revenge against the Chicago Blackhawks on opening night Oct. 10.

Bruzdewicz hits last-second FG to beat LIU

MATTHEW THEODROS
staff writer

A three-touchdown day from Darius Perrantes and a last-minute field goal from Brian Bruzdewicz helped Duquesne open conference play with a comeback win against Long Island University.

The Sharks had just tied the game at 28 with a 90-yard touchdown run with 3:33 on the clock when quarterback Darius Perrantes engineered a drive that set up the Bruzdewicz game winner.

Despite having been shut out in the quar-

ter, the Dukes were resilient and worked their way to LIU territory. A few passes by Perrantes allowed a clean field goal attempt from 34 yards for Bruzdewicz.

LIU tried to ice him, but with no success, and Bruzdewicz sent the ball straight through. Duquesne shut down LIU's last-chance lateral attempts on the following kickoff to secure the win.

Bruzdewicz explained his thought process and the cool, calm and collected mentality it took to make a game-winning play like that.

"I'm not really thinking about it honestly," Bruzdewicz said, "just focused on the next

kick and that's a great mentality to have as a kicker."

Bruzdewicz was named the Northeast Conference Special Teams Player of the Week and Prime Performer. He finished the game 4-for-4 on PAT attempts, making him a perfect 14-for-14 so far this season.

Much like last season's double overtime affair, this contest between the teams was back and forth from the very beginning.

The Sharks opened the game strong behind a two-play score led by quarterback Michael Coney to receiver Owen Glascoe.

In the ensuing possession, Perrantes led a seven-play, 75-yard drive ending with a 13-yard laser to Teddy Afful in the endzone.

The Dukes defense was not able to get the necessary stops to end the quarter as Howell drove the ball across the field. Glascoe rushed for his second touchdown of the day to give LIU a 14-7 lead going into the second quarter.

The beginning of the second quarter was much of the same as LIU was able to find the endzone once again. Pat Bowen broke out for a 71-yard touchdown to give the home team a 21-7 advantage.

Perrantes drew up two great offensive possessions to bring the Dukes back into the game. Using his movement in the pocket and long-range air attack, he was able to find Afful again for another touchdown score.

With 20 seconds left in the half, Perrantes orchestrated a nine-play, 64-yard possession ending with a 28-yard touchdown to receiver Keshawn Brown. The Dukes entered the locker room at halftime level at 21.

Perrantes' three touchdown passes, 254 passing yards and 17 completions all led the NEC for the weekend.

Head Coach Jerry Schmitt attributed the comeback to Perrantes' gradual progression throughout the contest and ability to find re-

ceivers in difficult positions.

"He got out in the pocket a few times and made some good throws," Schmitt said. "I think that got him rolling a bit. He has those guys who can go get the ball no matter where it is."

DU kept their foot on the gas and continued the offensive output from the second quarter to the third. Freshman running back Edward Robinson concluded an eight-play, 80-yard drive with a 14-yard rushing touchdown for their first lead of the game.

The Sharks were neutralized on a crucial play on their 10-yard line as Duquesne's Dayvia Gbor intercepted a pass made by Coney.

The Dukes maintained the lead until LIU's Davon Wells evaded tacklers and broke free for a 90-yard touchdown to tie the game at 28.

Duquesne was able to get a wide variety of production on the offensive end, especially from the running back room.

Robinson, Taj Butts and JaMario Clements all had 10 carries and contributed to the team total of 202 rushing yards.

"You want them to be at the peak of their performance," Schmitt said. "You get into that second half and having three guys who can be able to do that is a great luxury for us."

Robinson was named the NEC Rookie of the Week after another stellar running display, following his career-high 96 yards in the previous contest at Coastal Carolina.

"It's always great to open up the conference with a win," Schmitt said. "A conference win on the road is just a credit to these guys. I'm just so proud of the staff, the players, they did an awesome job."

Duquesne returns to action on Saturday for its fourth straight road game, when they travel to face the Delaware Blue Hens.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Brian Bruzdewicz swings through the ball on his game-winning field goal against LIU. It got the Dukes off to a 1-0 start against FCS opposition, and moved the squad to 2-2 on the season.

Theodros: It's time to respect Coach Prime

MATTHEW THEODROS
staff writer

In the world of college football, the Colorado Buffaloes have always been a team known for their rich history and tradition. However, in recent years, the Buffaloes have struggled to find success on the field. Years of mediocrity and sub-500 performance have had fans begging for a change of culture.

That all changed when Hall of Famer and NFL legend Deion Sanders took the helm as the head coach for the Buffaloes. With his unmatched passion for the game and a commitment to excellence, Sanders has revived football in Colorado.

Following a 1-11 season where the previous coach was fired, Colorado needed a new voice in that locker room. The culture he has instilled into that program has transcended football and is the talk of the sports world.

Celebrities and large network personalities such as Dwayne "the Rock" Johnson, Shannon Sharpe and Steven A. Smith all made appearances at the Colorado games. The speed at which Sanders has turned a losing program into a cultural phenomenon is unprecedented.

The revenue he is generating from in-

creased secondary ticket prices and record-high ESPN viewership has brought in boatloads of cash for the school. His usage of the transfer portal has done wonders for the team as over 70 new players arrived this semester.

At quarterback, Deion's son, Shadeur, has taken the football world by storm with his electric playmaking and swift footwork. Transitioning from Jackson State alongside his father was the best thing to happen in his young career.

Dual-threat Travis Hunter has made his case as one of the great college football stars playing both wide receiver and cornerback. Before his injury against Colorado State, the second-year star was poised to be a Heisman Trophy candidate.

Colorado began the 2023 season with an impressive 3-0 record including an upset at last year's National Champion runner-up TCU.

Week four was not as kind to Deion and his crew heading to Oregon. The Ducks crushed Colorado 42-6 in what was their first test of the young season. Hunter's absence was noticeable as the defense struggled to contain Oregon's high-powered offense.

Despite that, the Buffaloes have taken the world by storm and become must-watch

television. The Nielsen-measured audience for Colorado-Oregon was the largest of the season, and Colorado has now played in four of the seven top-viewed games this season.

The national spotlight is one thing, but what is worth noticing is the criticism the team and, more specifically, Deion have received over the past few weeks.

Narratives began to form and opinions amongst the masses changed toward Deion. The majority of the praise the coach was receiving became bitter remarks and unwarranted scrutiny.

Former NFL quarterback and ESPN analyst Danny Kanell was one of many media members to voice their opinion on Deion and Colorado's success.

"Simple. People were exhausted with the over-the-top coverage of Deion," Kanell said. "Every pregame speech aired ALL day on every ESPN show on loop. Overhyping average wins. That's it."

A conversation that should be about the game of football has become an attempt to diminish his newly-gained success. People are not able to forget Deion the player while speaking about Deion the coach.

Comments questioning his character and attitude are ironic, especially in a sport that praises hard-minded and out-

spoken coaches. Nick Saban and Jim Harbaugh are praised countless for their confidence and presence in the coaching atmosphere.

But for some reason, Sanders' unconventional methods to success have led to disrespect from other people in the college football world.

At the height of the Buffaloes' winning streak, rival Head Coach Jay Norvell took aim at Sanders for his sleek and informal talking to reporters and coaches, saying "When I talk to grown-ups, I take my hat and glasses off. That's what my mother taught me."

It reveals a fear that coaches have now that the system has changed. NIL deals have become a focal point of college recruiting and no longer are the traditional methods of getting top-tier players the same.

Sadly, it is not surprising to see how the dialogue has changed regarding Sanders. In a world where minorities get opportunities and achievement, there is often pushback and attempts to silence them.

This animosity against Sanders is nothing new and more of the same from his playing days. What should be widespread praise of a Black man succeeding has become a sour conversation that is dominated by negative perspectives.

Trace Brewing prepares for Pittsburgh Coffee Week

NICK FERNBAUGH
staff writer

The smell of coffee filled the air at Trace Brewing as many people gathered to learn latte art in Bloomfield on Tuesday night for a Latte Art Workshop.

Many people visited the brewery to take part in a workshop with a casual atmosphere of people talking and learning from the lead director of the event, Joe Burns. Burns is the coffee director and co-owner of Ghost Coffee Collab, a cafe collaborative that runs inside Trace Brewery in the earlier hours of the day.

The workshop was used to train people for the big downtown event coming up in two weeks: Pittsburgh Coffee Week.

“There’s no pressure,” said Jason Farahi, a local retail business owner who participated in the latte art. He appreciated the welcoming atmosphere for new latte artists like himself.

“It seems like the really good people here are doing latte art and like us, pretty beginners. So it’s really laid back and a great learning experience,” he said.

The purpose of the event, according to Burns, was to give off easy energy and get people learning the basics of latte art and build from there.

“We’re doing a lot of our workshop/practice time for just anybody who’s interested ... to come by and learn to make latte art,” Burns said. “There’s a lot of people here that I haven’t seen before

which is great because we do this event frequently every month ... So the more new people we can bring in and teach, especially in latte art, the better it is.”

The main goal of the event on Tuesday was to teach patrons at all skill levels while making everyone feel like they could laugh with the instructors.

“The No. 1 takeaway for tonight is honestly approachability,” said Aadam Soorma, marketing director of Trace Brewing.

“Chill, come as you are, even if you’ve never done it before. Like basically, you can come and learn and give it a whirl, and no one’s going to ridicule you or laugh at you.”

On top of the low-stakes environment in which the latte art class took place, the event was meant to also be a community builder.

“For me, I actually met my boyfriend at a coffee shop while I was working,” said Sarah Diller, lead barista at Commonplace Coffee.

Diller participated in the latte art event in hopes of finding a similar community of friends among other latte artists and coffee lovers.

The process of learning closely with Burns as an instructor provided the opportunity for plenty of feedback and encouragement for the amateur artists in attendance at the event.

“I liked having people [look] at the latte art I was doing and be able to pinpoint what I’m doing,” said Diller, appreciating the feedback she received to make her art



NICK FERNBAUGH | STAFF WRITER
Joe Burns (right) indulges Jason Farahi (left) in the fundamentals of latte art and how to elevate the presentation to create new forms.

even better.

Coffee opened the door for many people to connect with each other in a new way at Trace Brewing, where coffee is not typically the beverage of choice during the brewery’s nightly open hours.

“Coffee,” Soorma said, “it’s something you can enjoy all day. I think that the thing that I love about coffee the most is the subtle nuance in which these folks pull espresso, make filter drip coffee [or] a pour over.”

The process of turning a simple cup of coffee into something artistic was also described as a special craft by Burns.

“You need a good, clean slate of espresso,” Burns said. “So you need espresso with a good level of cream on it, you need properly foamed milk, properly textured milk...it’s actually surprisingly physics and physical more than anything.”

Coffee is something that connects with anything, Burns said, and shows off the complexity of life in a simple cup from the smell, the color or taste. There are around 129 species of coffee,

according to the website Counter Culture Coffee.

“I think a good example is if you go to a coffee shop and you can try two or three different single origin coffees from different countries and then you taste them side-by-side,” Soorma said. “You can actually pull out different flavors where the art meets the science meets the country of origin. And I think that’s really cool.”

For more information about the upcoming Pittsburgh Coffee Week competitions and events check out <https://pghcoffeeweek.com/>. With their newfound latte art skills, the participants at Trace Brewery’s class look forward to appreciating the events throughout coffee week even more.

For their ninth annual Pittsburgh Coffee Week, Downtown cafes will serve up special events and drink specials from Oct. 15 to 21.

“With a focus on collaboration between communities and shops,” the coffee week website said, “these events will serve to expand your horizons, whether you’re a seasoned industry pro or just getting your feet wet.”



NICK FERNBAUGH | STAFF WRITER
Beginner latte art quickly developed to a refined finish, making attendees feel in control and empowered by their newfound skills.

CAMPUS
EVENTS

Beats on the Bluff
Oct. 6 @ 8 p.m.

Mic Drop is hosting an a cappella invitational in the Union Ballroom. Tickets are sold at the door. \$3 with DUQ ID, \$5 without.

Miss Duquesne Pageant
Oct. 7 @ 7 p.m.

Alpha Sigma Tau is hosting their annual pageant in the Union Ballroom. All proceeds raised will benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The Eras Tour
(Duquesne’s Version)
Oct. 9 @ 9 p.m.

“Meet me in the NiteSpot!” Join the Center for Student Involvement for a night of Taylor Swift!

Mocktail Mixoff
Oct. 11 @ 9 p.m.

Compete in the annual non-alcoholic mocktail mix off. Prizes for most creative, best taste and overall winner. Held in the Africa Room.

EMILY'S
EPIPHANIES

Take Ownership & Lead the Way

*If you can, you must,
because if you don't,
no one else will.
~Corey Jahlas*

While this "slice of advice" may initially come off as pessimistic, it's advice that I've taken to heart since its first appearance in my life in 2017.

When you are seeking someone to step up and be the bigger person, step up.

When you are in need of someone to show up for you, show up for yourself. Be your own hero, not your own damsel.

If you can, you must. You must take care of yourself and prioritize your needs.

If you don't, no one else will. Lead by example.

Fill your own gaps and create your own kindnesses. The rest will follow as its meant to, but you must take the first leap.
— Emily Fritz

Aquarius ♒
I'm so glad you were able to use your Nutella germs.

Pisces ♓
There's no scary skinny bear!!

Aries ♈
Don't get involved with toxic men because it can lead to pedophilia.

Taurus ♉
Two pairs of chopsticks deep in the garbage disposal.

Gemini ♊
Drives around the world until they find a random sunflower field.

Cancer ♋
Traumatized by peas and carrots in Y2K.

Leo ♌
You're ruining my baby shower, please leave.

Virgo ♍
What did I tell you about using the word "behoove?"

Libra ♎
I slept like a Twizzler and now everything hurts.

Scorpio ♏
Adulthood is where dreams go to die.

Sagittarius ♐
Now I'm married and have feet.

Capricorn ♑
Are you sure that's not Michael Jackson?

An enjoyably unsettling mystery with a dash of horror

TRISTAN HASSEMAN
staff writer

"A Haunting in Venice" is the thrilling third installation of Kenneth Branagh's Agatha Christie adaptations and is his best to date thanks to the unpredictable plot and increased emphasis on the occult.

Perfectly pairing a classic 'whodunnit' with dark visuals and supernatural activity, "A Haunting in Venice" is a wonderfully suspenseful gothic mystery perfect for getting you in the Halloween spirit.

In addition to directing the film, Branagh stars as the renowned but recently retired detective, Hercule Poirot. With the help of his comically thick French accent and voluminous mustache, Branagh once again brings the character to life.

Joining him is a star-studded cast headlined by Hollywood icons Tina Fey and Michelle Yeoh.

Fey plays quick-witted mystery novelist Ariadne Oliver and Yeoh stars as the shady psychic Ms. Reynolds who arrives at the party to conduct a séance.

Unlike the previous films "Murder on the Orient Express"

(2017) and "Death on the Nile" (2022), "A Haunting in Venice" is based on a much less acclaimed Christie novel.

Originally published in 1969, "Hallowe'en Party" is less substantial than some of Christie's other novels, which gave Branagh and screenwriter Michael Green the creative freedom to rework the novel into a screenplay adaptation.

In addition to overhauling the plot, they moved the location to Venice, which serves as the perfect cinematic setting for a supernatural mystery.

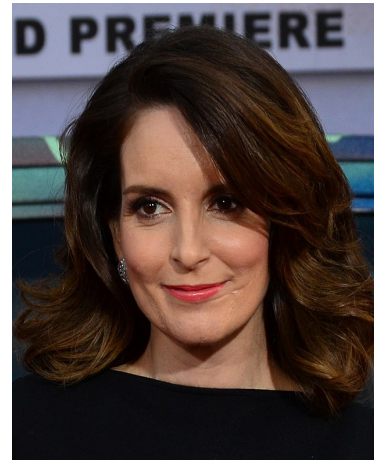
Rumored to be haunted by the vengeful ghosts of children killed by the plague, the vast, dilapidated house is the ideal setting for the film which at times feels more like a haunted house thriller than a murder mystery.

"These horror elements may be unabashedly creaky and derivative, but they work because the movie embraces them to the hilt," said Justin Chang of NPR.

"A Haunting in Venice" is not a traditional horror movie but rather a dark and unsettling mystery that toes the line of a horror film but doesn't cross it, allowing the movie to remain PG-13.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
Kenneth Branagh is the mastermind behind several Christie adaptations.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
"Mean Girls" supporting actress Tina Fey boasts 25 years of acting credits.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
Michelle Yeoh continues to rise following her 2023 Golden Globe win.

The simple-but-spooky cinematography paired with occult activities create the perfect Halloween film that scares and satisfies the viewer without including graphic displays of violence or blood.

What sets the movie apart from its predecessors is the departure from the cozy tropes often present in typical murder mysteries.

The most nuanced Branagh adaptation to date, the film captures the attention of the audience and adds emotional depth to the characters in ways that

force the viewer to sympathize with them regardless of how suspicious they may seem.

Amid the gruesome deaths and double-crossings, the movie offers an empathetic insight into those who deal with guilt and loss.

Setting the movie in the aftermath of World War II provides the film with the unique opportunity to discuss mental health and the lasting impacts of war on the mind and soul.

Many characters reference their time serving, and their haunting memories play a crucial

role in the movie.

Despite Branagh's faulty French, increasingly failing accent and a few awkwardly presented lines, the impressive performances of the full cast overwhelm the viewers with immersive acting.

Whether you are a horror fanatic or not, "A Haunting in Venice" is a thoroughly enjoyable film that brings a breath of fresh air to the often complacent and predictable world of mystery movies and is the perfect way to start the Halloween season.

"Moulin Rouge!" makes sultry, sexy revival of jukebox music

EMILY FRITZ
a&e editor

"Hyperbole has no place in my heart," urged Harold Zidler (Robert Petkoff) in Tuesday's evening performance of "Moulin Rouge! The Musical" at the Benedum Center.

Complete with vividly colored costumes, layers of petticoats being thrown and undergarments exposed during the infamous can-can, mixed with the blinding and charmingly gauche lighting on set and the Victorian style grandeur, the musical adaptation to the 2001 film did not disappoint.

The production did not feature the standard original score but instead utilized a "jukebox" set list consisting of Pitch Perfect-adjacent mash-ups like Adele's "Rolling in the Deep" and Gnarles Barkley's "Crazy," forming "Crazy Rolling."

Numerous other musical references were made, featuring the talents of pop artists Katy Perry, Lady Gaga, P!nk, Whitney Houston and more.

Some musical renditions molded to the thespian vocal style better than others, with some placed strategically and humorously, and others taking more somber tones.

Only two songs were original



COURTESY OF DIANA ROTH | PITTSBURGH CULTURAL TRUST

From left to right, Harper Miles, Libby Lloyd, Nicci Claspell and Andres Quintero dazzle as the Moulin Rouge's seasoned dancers in the North American Tour of "Moulin Rouge! The Musical."

works. "The Pitch Song" and "Come What May" both fit the book written by Tony Award winner John Logan and the music supervision, orchestrations and arrangements by Tony Award winner Justin Levine.

The plot of the musical Frankensteins several elements from across other musicals and theatre productions: the proletariat-bourgeoisie struggles of "Les Misérables," Shakespearean love

triangles, the aforementioned dj-ing of 2012 film "Pitch Perfect," the Gatsby-esque level of shared sins, the popularized movie to Broadway streamline that has taken over and the risqué dancing of the original Moulin Rouge of Paris, which celebrated its 130th anniversary in 2019 when the show opened in the Al Hirschfeld Theatre.

With the mishmash of elements, it can become easy to get

lost in the production.

Despite the enticing and sometimes confusing disarray of pop culture music, the cast blends their unique voices to create enchanting arrangements that induce emotions foreign to their original works.

The North American tour features the talents of Gabrielle McClinton (Satine), Christian Douglas (Christian), Robert Petkoff (Harold Zidler), Nick Rashad

Burroughs (Toulouse-Lautrec), Andrew Brewer (The Duke of Monroth), Sarah Bowden (Nini) and Danny Burgos (Santiago).

"It's easy to believe that Moulin Rouge! The Musical could run for 50 years," Entertainment Weekly proclaimed.

Despite their high praise, the shelf life of the musical far surrenders their namesake's long history. Unless the arrangements continue to evolve with well-known jukebox favorites, it's likely that the show will reach its end long before the greats of Broadway.

While it's still in vogue and in Pittsburgh, "Moulin Rouge! The Musical" is worth the night in the Cultural District.

The tour ends its residency at the Benedum Center on Oct. 8. Pittsburgh Cultural Trust still lists performances after and including Friday, Oct. 6 as "best availability" for tickets.

Prices range from \$45 to \$155 and seats can still be found in the highly-coveted orchestra section as well as the more affordable first and second balcony tiers.

Appreciate the 160 years of music while it lasts, and indulge in the provocative history of the Moulin Rouge, circa 1899. You may just find more cultural references than you're able to fully comprehend.

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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“Dreaming,
after all,
is a form of
planning.”

Gloria Steinem

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

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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COURTESY OF JULIA HALVAS

First-year student Julia Halvas is finding out that college life is not what she expected.

Planning on not having a plan *Tales from a first-year student*

I came to college with a single set of expectations about what the college experience would be like. It's been four weeks since I started at Duquesne, and I have to admit, I have no idea what I'm doing.

Whoever said college would surprise me was right.

When I initially started my journey at Duquesne, I was one of the naive people who thought that the second my parents stopped breathing down my neck and dropped me off at Towers, my life would suddenly fall right into place.

Since the first day, this newfound freedom has allowed me to become solely responsible for my future, a future that includes long hours of studying and one day, hopefully, a seat in medical school.

For once, I have control over every aspect of my own daily routine. If I don't want to go to class, I don't have to. If I want to stay up until two in the morning, there is no one yelling at me to go to bed.

This new responsibility is suffocating sometimes, even though it seemed quite relieving at first. I am questioning if my future is as certain as I thought.

When I was growing up, people told me that I was always focused and had a good head on my shoulders.

My parents always assured me that I would be okay and that I would have the capability to figure out all of life's challenges.

I grew up in an environment where my life was placed on a pedestal, and so when I came to college, I naturally felt confident that I could take on the world and succeed.

When my parents dropped me off and said their goodbyes, everything changed.

All the confidence I had built up, all the goals and ambitions I had, went from being romanticized to reality.

I am beginning the new chapter of my life, the chapter where I am in full control.

However, when I was walking back from the parking garage, this time *without* my mother, I felt uneasy.

All summer I had felt ready

to take on the world, yet when my parents left, I felt scared and alone. Even with the 1,500 other students in the same boat, there still is this feeling of isolation.

I am not going to school with the same kids I went to school with for the last twelve years. I am not going to sleep in my own bed anymore, and instead of turning over each night and seeing my sister in the bed beside mine, I see a girl I just met a few months ago.

I've come to terms with this new independence. In fact, I am starting to embrace it.

It was at first jarring to look



JULIA HALVAS

staff writer

around at my peers and see their future plans even clearer and more well-thought out than my own. I started to lose faith in my own track toward graduation. It seemed as if so many kids knew what they wanted to do in life, so many kids had seats waiting for them in pre professional schools.

So many kids had a plan.

It is clear that my plan has not settled. And I also realize, that it is okay. I came in knowing what I wanted for my future, sort of. I had this nagging voice in my head telling me to not set my soul on anything and to not let the pressure from the people around me alter or cloud my judgment.

This dream I had, or “plan” turned into more of a “pla.”

“Pla’s” is a less fully-formed plan, that tends to have the beginning of a plan, but the end is not yet definite.

The idea of not knowing began to scare me and I went to bed every night wondering if I am making the right decision. If I am truly meant to do this.

I have begun to think back to high school and the intense amount of pressure they put on us. For so long, teachers and faculty just continued to enforce this idea that having a plan is essential to be successful and a plan starts with higher education or college.

As the weeks go on, I am meeting so many new people, going through the same experience as me with their own “pla’s.”

I realize that I have to look at my past self, that high school girl who had a life-long plan, and let her go. It is time to move on and let this new, adult me find the “n” to my “pla.”

Even though it has only been four weeks, I have changed a lot. I've become more independent and learned to be more social, but I think the most important thing I have accomplished is embracing the unknown and living in the present.

Maybe eight years from now, I'll look back on my freshman self, who thought she knew exactly what she was going to do, and laugh as I receive my diploma from medical school. Or maybe I'll be living in New York writing for the *New York Times*.

Since saying goodbye to my parents that first day, the plan has become less of a priority to my everyday life. Life is crazy and spontaneous, and we never know where we might end up.

What I do know is this: today I am a biology major. I plan to go to graduate with a B.S. and hopefully one day go to medical school. I have fully acknowledged that four years from now or even tomorrow, my mind may change, and that is okay. That is life. I have accepted the fact that I have a “pla” and right now, and at this moment, that is good enough for me.

STAFF
EDITORIAL

Fetterman's pants are not the problem

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture in 2020, reports revealed the number of Pennsylvanians facing food insecurity reached over 1.77 million as a result of the Covid pandemic. And in 2019 about 63,000 Pittsburgh residents alone struggled for food due to economic and social conditions.

Despite these statistics and the millions of starving Pennsylvania residents, the senate shows more concern that John Fetterman looks like he gets dressed in the dark.

In the end of Sept., the senate unanimously voted to introduce a formal dress code requiring business casual attire on the chamber floor. It took only one round of voting for Fetterman to lose the lounge wear and less than a week to get bipartisan support.

However, The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which provides monthly Electronic Benefit Transfer cards to purchase food at local grocery stores and farmers markets, took over a year to pass through Congress in the 2008 U.S. Farm Bill.

It took only one man who decided not to adhere to a 234-year-old unspoken decorum policy to bring the entire Senate together to form the “Show Our Respect To the Senate” or SHORTS Act according to *Politico*.

Fetterman told *CNN* that he would wear business attire to senate votes and yet senators still deemed a clothing policy important enough to move to the top of the agenda.

While SNAP has been in practice for 15 years and many grocery delivery services are still not able to accept these online payments in Pennsylvania, the senate has yet to change or address it.

The U.S. has a long-standing history of food insecurity as 1 in 10 Americans live in food insecurity and in Pennsylvania the barriers to physically access food only seem to be getting worse as the number of people affected continues to increase.

The distant grocery stores, high delivery fees and lack of unprocessed food leaves Pittsburghers scrounging for food. According to a 2012 United States Department of Treasury report almost 50% of Pittsburgh's residents live in a “food desert.”

Duquesne's campus is no stranger to these types of food insecure areas as the campus sits right in the middle of the Hill District, a known food desert, with a complete lack of grocery stores.

So, while Fetterman finds himself forced to wear a coat, tie and slacks at least he'll look nice while our campus

Taking the fight to platforms

ZACH PETROFF
opinions editor

**Note: The Society of Professional Journalists will publish a monthly column in The Duke's opinions section.*

One of the first things I do when I wake up is check my phone.

I check my bank account, the weather and social media.

I cannot help but check on a few select Facebook friends. I do not do it out of curiosity, but out of fascination.

I am obsessed with people who tend to over share their lives on social media.

Despite only meeting a few of these people a few times, I feel like I know so much about them. I know their political leaning (it's in some of their profile pictures), their fears, their hopes and even intimate details of their relationships.

It's captivating, it's intrusive and above all it is entertaining. Who needs reality television when I can see if Stacy from high school is going to air her dirty laundry about her toxic codependent relationship?

The brilliance behind social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram and X, formerly known as Twitter, is that the users are the content creators.

One of the main draws to social media is to see what people in our social circles are doing. I cannot be alone in using social media to view the absurdity. My dopamine receptors get their fill when I watch the guy I went to high school with go on an intimate yet outlandish tirade about the conspiracy of the dollar bill.

I know it's likely bad for our culture, but when Ashlee posts about her experience of being "disrespected" at a Home Depot I cannot help but read every word in her elitist and often misinformed rant.

Social media is a circus that we are not just attending, but where we are also the main attraction. The reason these platforms are free is because they need users to create content to attract and keep people logging back on. The more people in the tent, the more advertisers are likely to spend money.

The problem here is that the ones doing the performances, the ones performing the tricks and drawing crowds

to the circus are not being compensated.

It is a lucrative model. Take a look at Meta, whose financial records show that in the last quarter of the fiscal year 2022, they posted a net income of \$23.2 billion.

Approximately 98% of that revenue was from advertising. That is a lot of money built on the backs of people and organizations willingly giving out their content for free.

This includes local news.

Last Wednesday, the Trib Total Media President and CEO Jennifer Bertetto met with White House officials to push for legislation that would allow local news outlets to negotiate for fair compensation from large digital platforms that use their content.

"Big Tech companies don't have reporters on the ground like we do," Bertetto said.

"Yet they get the bulk of the revenue while we are the ones providing quality journalism to communities from Greensburg to Tarentum.

It is only fair that publishers like the Trib can sit down and negotiate for adequate compensation."

Local news outlets across the country are drying up, unable to stay financially viable.

PBS reported in August that over the past few decades more than 2,000 newspapers across the country have closed, yet so many outlets are willingly giving away their products, for free, to these tech giants who are making an astronomical amount of revenue.

Our local news outlets are giving their content away, for free. It is not just Facebook.

The *Tribune-Review* cited in their article that between 16% and 40% of Google search results are news content according to News/Media Alliance.

The alliance said that has contributed to a 58% revenue decrease among U.S. newspapers since 2005.

It seems that a lot of struggling news organizations are looking for a quick fix or some ground-breaking way to stay relevant, creating TikToks or using sensationalism to draw people in.

But the answer, seems to be clear: Good journalism finds a way to the people.

We just need to capitalize on it.

Editor's Note: Zach Petroff is an intern at the Tribune-Review.



Shutdown Showdown and Civil War

MAXWELL MARCELLO
staff writer

George Washington once said, "Let us rise to a standard where the wise and honest can repair." One look at the 118th Congress and it becomes abundantly clear that the wise and honest must be on sabbatical.

At the eleventh hour on Saturday, the United States Congress miraculously passed a stopgap funding bill that will fund the government for 45 more days, or until Nov. 17, averting a government shutdown. Despite the shortcomings of this bill, I half-expected the country to erupt into celebration akin to the repeal of the 18th amendment or victory in the second world war – Congress miraculously accomplished something important through bipartisan compromise.

Although this crisis was completely preventable, the government finally operated as it was intended to. Because of this stopgap funding, millions of federal employees will continue to get paid and the millions of Americans who depend on those employees will have the services essential to their daily lives uninterrupted.

Instead of celebration from these developments, the response I saw was civil war. For the first time in American history, a sitting speaker of the House of Representatives was ousted from the post. Speaker Kevin McCarthy's dismissal was masterminded not by Democrats but by extremist fac-

tions within his own party. U.S. Rep. Matt Gaetz, the ringleader of the anti-McCarthy Republicans, made good on his threats to challenge McCarthy if he compromised with Democrats to pass the spending bill. Gaetz introduced a motion to vacate on Tuesday and received unanimous support from Democrats and eight Republicans to ultimately terminate McCarthy's speakership.

While the legacy of this move remains to be seen, I cannot understate what a landmark precedent Gaetz has established and the uncharted course the House is undertaking. It appears that Gaetz miscalculated the backlash he would receive from his own party.

Gaetz, a long-time advocate for far-right policies, has now awoken the ire of the agitators of yesterday. Former Speaker Newt Gingrich, a polarizing firebrand in his own right, wrote a truculent column in the *Washington Post* and did not mince his words – Gaetz needed to be expelled from the House of Representatives.

While the Republican Party devours itself, Democrats are also divided albeit not within the walls of the Capitol. Democratic voters are at odds with politicians who passed an emergency funding resolution that explicitly excluded spending for Ukraine. They, much like certain wings of the GOP, conclude that it would have been far better to force a government shutdown than compromise on politics.

It will be Nov. 17 soon and Congress

will be back where it started. Except this time, Congress will be more hostile toward any form of appropriation compromise.

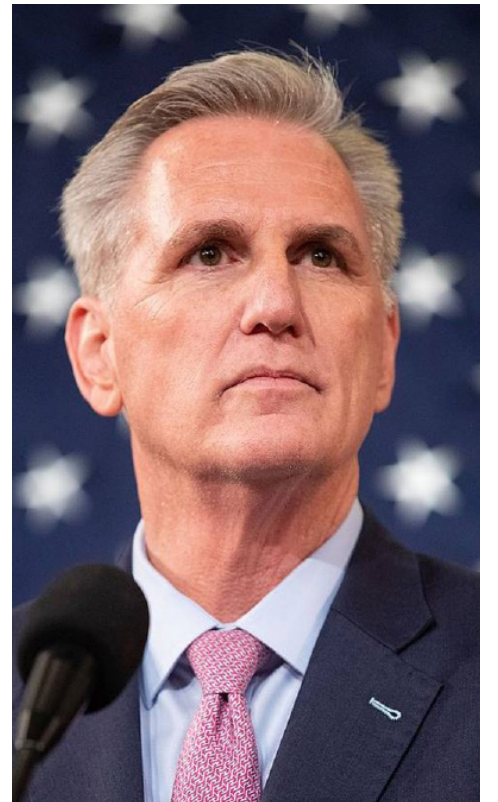
This is why both sides must be vociferously condemned for perpetuating the attitude that political gain is far more important than an operating state. Forcing a shutdown should never be an option, as they do far greater harm to those with the least power in Washington: the federal workforce. Working-class Americans trying to keep afloat are thrown into an unnecessary period of financial stress during government shutdowns. Mail carriers, air traffic controllers and food inspectors all suffer during shutdowns.

The aftermath of the rapid leadership change is sure to linger on Capitol Hill for years to come. One half of the United States Congress will lack formal leadership for the foreseeable future. All the while, millions of federal employees are currently bracing for impact since previous shutdowns have ranged from a few days to over a month.

I understand, these developments may sound grim and the natural response is feeling hopeless and powerless. We may not be led by the wise and honest, but, we the constituents, can force the politicians to rise to a higher standard.

Demand that representatives set aside politics to keep the government open even if it means compromising. Should we fail, iniquitous political actors like Gaetz will only feel more em-

boldened in their pursuit for power, making life more difficult for all Americans regardless of politics.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Kevin McCarthy is the first speaker of the house to be ousted from their post.



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WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS

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Three Students Accepted in Wheeling Orchestra

ISABELLA ABBOTT
features editor

Practicing an instrument for hours upon end in an enclosed room alone does not seem like the typical college student dream, but for some Duquesne students, those hours lead to the start of their careers.

Three Mary Pappert School of Music students and alumni recently won violinist positions in the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra.

After an intense two-round audition process, Danielle Barbosa, Anne Victoria Nasevich and Richard Palermo were selected as the newest members of the West Virginia symphony.

Two artist diploma students, Mariya Krastanova and Camila Zanetti, were also finalists in the process.

Barbosa, a violinist in the master of music in performance program, has been playing violin for 14 years. She said she loves to play and connect with others.

"Music taught me something divine from God, and I feel that connection, which is something bigger than us," Barbosa said. "And also sharing my talents with the community because music for me is very powerful in different ways."

Barbosa decided to come to Duquesne from Brazil after her friend told her about his experiences at the university and convinced her to do the same. She earned her bachelor's degree in violin from the University of São Paulo in 2020.

For Barbosa, the biggest change from studying in Brazil to studying in the U.S. was the fast-paced environment.

"I think here we need to learn faster, so that was a bit challenging at the beginning," Barbosa said. "Because in a short time, you need to be ready for everything, and that demands time and effort."

Although she has played for many other orchestras in Brazil and the U.S., includ-

ing the Youngstown Symphony, Washington Symphony and Orquestra Experimental de Repertório, she's excited to play with the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra.

"I'm very glad to be a part of this work," Barbosa said. "I feel a big responsibility be-

ing said. "I'm excited to start something new with the Wheeling Symphony, and I can't wait to grow because I will always be growing as a musician"

Her favorite part about playing the violin is that she's not just playing for herself

makes you grow as a musician, even if it's not something you necessarily hear," Nasevich said. "And just keep practicing and improving because you can have all the teachers you want in the world, but it's really you that is your best teacher."

One other student who will be playing for the orchestra, Richard Palermo, decided to come to Duquesne after taking private lessons in high school from Professor Charles Stegman, with whom he wanted to continue studying. He said the teachers "are always striving for the next thing and encouraging the students to get better."

Palermo graduated from Duquesne in 2021 with a bachelor of music in performance and has been playing violin for roughly 16 years. His favorite part about the program is the community it offers.

"What I really enjoyed about Duquesne was the community, the musicians, everyone was closely knit," Palermo said. "I felt that at the Mary Pappert School of Music, I saw familiar faces every single day, and I knew the majority of the students."

Palermo is a member of some other Pittsburgh area orchestras as well, including the Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra, the York Symphony Orchestra, the Pittsburgh Opera Orchestra and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. His goal as a kid was to be in a "professional orchestra playing music with great musicians."

Palermo, Barbosa and Nasevich will play in the Violins of Hope concert on Oct. 19. They are all contracted members for the 2023-2024 season.

According to the Violins of Hope website, the musicians play on a collection of violins, violas and cellos all collected since the end of World War II. The concerts are not only a memorial to lost culture and people but an educational act that reaches young students and adults wherever the performances occur.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DANIELLE BARBOSA

Violinist Danielle Barbosa has been playing for 14 years. While she started her journey in Brazil, she is at Duquesne studying for her master's of music performance.

ing contract hired, so I need to give my best."

Another student who will soon be playing for the orchestra, Anne Victoria Nasevich, has been a violinist for 12 years. She decided to audition for the orchestra after her professors said she'd be a good fit. Nasevich waited on audition day for results for hours and ultimately found out that she got in.

"It was a great experience for me, and obviously, it's not the end of the road, it's just one more step in my future," Nasev-

but for the audience around her.

"It's important to keep in mind that we're not playing music for ourselves, it's kind of for other people so that they can feel something with the music," Nasevich said. "It's good to have that cooperation with other people and always being positive about the experience."

Her advice for anyone looking to play the violin is to keep practicing and learning.

"I would say don't be discouraged when you're criticized because criticism is what



Violinist Anne Victoria Nasevich has been playing for 12 years. She said being accepted into the Wheeling Orchestra is "just one more step into her future."



Violinist Richard Palermo has been playing for roughly 16 years. He has played for the Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra, the Pittsburgh Opera Orchestra and more.



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Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Muffins

Emma Polen | Editor-in-Chief



EMMA POLEN | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Looking for an easy fall recipe to serve up at a gathering, or eat them all yourself, Here is a family fav recipe that never fails to be appreciated wherever we bring it. These ingredients make about 3 dozen regular size muffins, or 6.5 dozen mini muffins. I usually do a mix of both!

Ingredients

- 4 eggs
- 2 cups white sugar
- 1 (15 oz.) can pumpkin
- 1 cup oil
- 3 cups flour
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 C chocolate chips

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400°
2. Grease muffin pans with cooking spray
3. Beat eggs in large bowl
4. Mix in sugar, pumpkin and oil
5. Add the remaining dry ingredients
6. Fold in chocolate chips
7. Fill muffin cups, about 3/4 of the way with batter
8. Reg. size muffins: Bake for 15-20 mins
Mini muffins: 10-12 mins.

Enjoy :)

Spiritan Mission Experience

Contact: Brenda Merrick
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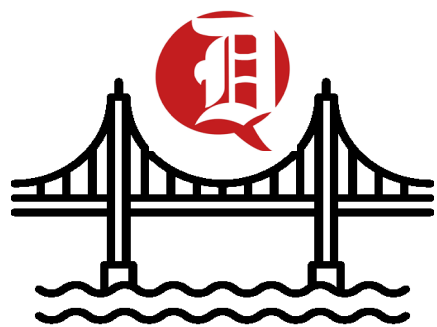
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