



'Soupers' South Side takeover

ELIYAHU GASSON

opinions editor

The 19th annual South Side Soup Contest on Saturday gave attendees, known as "Soupers," the opportunity to crawl through Pittsburgh's South Side Flats neighborhood.

The event featured a total of 20 businesses, each paired with a restaurant serving soup.

For example, soupers could visit Thick Bikes shop, where Mario's South Side Saloon was inside serving up Spicy Poblano Soup.

Soupers were required to purchase tickets at least one day before the event took place. They had the option of purchasing \$50 base tickets or \$100 VIP tickets, which came with the added perks of a 2024 Soup Contest t-shirt, a free cocktail and access to a VIP reception brunch an hour before the contest started at Carmella's Plates & Pints.

Ticket sales went to benefit the South Side Chamber of Commerce and the Brashear Association, a social services nonprofit active in south Pittsburgh.

Andrea Matthews, the executive director of the Brashear Association, told *The Duke* that the soup contest came about in 2005 with the goal of promoting South Side businesses and bringing attention to food insecurity.

"They [original organizers] wanted a way to showcase South Side businesses, showcase the support the South Side businesses give to the Brashear Association and also the Chamber [of Commerce]," Matthews said. "It's fun to vote on the five categories."

Soupers were encouraged to not only explore the South Side and try different soups, but to also vote on their favorites. The five categories included: people's choice overall best soup, people's choice runner up, best vegetarian/vegan, most unique and best host.

Adam Lewin is the assistant general manager at Sly Fox Brewing Company, which won the people's choice award last year. Lewin expressed the confidence of his restaurant's entry into the contest this year.

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THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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Black Student Union celebrates its members for Black History Month



AVA RIEGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Black Student Union president Lindsey Harris received the Black Panther award at the 'Black Love Day' event on Sunday. The standing ovation had the Duquesne senior fighting back tears.

SPENCER THOMAS

sports editor

Duquesne's Black Student Union chose to end Black History Month on a high note, celebrating their annual 'Black Love Day' with a gala in the Power Center.

While some Black History Month events focus on healing and the past, this event celebrated the present recognizing Duquesne's Black community.

With the theme "All the Stars," the Union used the night to honor one another's accomplishments. Eight awards were handed out to students and staff, before the night ended with a talent show and dance reception.

On the last weekend of Black History month, Black Student Union President Lindsey Harris wanted to make sure the spotlight was shown on the positives of Black culture at Duquesne.

"It means the world and I think it's our foundation for BSU," she said. "Without the positivity and the strides that a lot of students make on campus, what's the point of having our organization?"

She opened the evening with a speech thanking students for their involvement on campus, noting the importance of representation as minorities at a predominantly white institution.

"We try to take the time for 'Black Love Day' to recognize all that they do," she said. "Because it does take a lot to be a college student."

To her own surprise, Harris turned out to be one of the brightest stars of the evening. She did not suspect, that at the end of the night, she would be honored for her excellence in leadership and "a dedication to spreading Black excellence and leadership at Duquesne University" with the 'Black Panther Award.'

As she was handed the award, her executive vice president, junior Jakobie Green, jumped on the mic for an impromptu speech on behalf of the Black Student Union to thank their leader. The standing ovation that ensued brought Harris to tears.

"I don't even know how to put it into words," she said. "Seeing everybody stand and cheer for me, I'm going to remember that for the rest of my life."

Fighting off tears, Harris smiled at the executive board. "It has been such a privilege to be a part of this board and to see how much it's grown," she said to the crowd. "I'm so excited to see what you guys do next year."

"It was important for me because Lindsey just does so much," Green said. "She had a big heart, and she really just took everybody under her wing and taught me a lot. She became a friend."

"She deserved that award be-

cause she is the bomb."

Quincy Stephenson, Executive Director for the Center for Excellence in Diversity and Student Inclusion repeatedly praised Harris and Green's executive board.

Stephenson was honored in his own way, as the BSU presented an award in his name for the second time. The prize, which seeks to honor students who "make a difference in that they do lead with compassion and conviction for the students," was won by Samiya Henry.

"They did a wonderful job tonight," Stephenson said. "This is a great way to culminate the end of [Black History Month]."

Academic awards included 'Most Involved Freshman,' won by Deandre Moxly, and an award for 'Black Excellence in Academia,' which was won by Taylor Hopkins.

Some awards were less a celebration of the work done in the classroom, and more a celebration of the attitudes of the students. Damaria Wedderburn won the 'Most Vibrant Student Award,' which is given annually to a "sophomore who brings life into every room, and pushes toward community."

With the theme of vibrance, even guests' attire was a celebration in its own way. Jet-black three-piece suits and freshly shined shoes stood out alongside bright and in-

tricate dresses and heels.

Harris said that the night's theme, "All the Stars," came from the lead single on the soundtrack for the movie "Black Panther," by SZA and Kendrick Lamar. The song closed out the night as attendees filed out of the ballroom, the film was shown in the reception area prior to the event, where students smiled up at the screens, and did their best impressions of T'Challa, the Black Panther.

After honoring each other, the BSU allowed its members to actually demonstrate that skill with a talent show. Among the highlights were a soulful rendition of 'Best Part,' a Grammy-winning Rock and Blues song by Daniel Caesar and H.E.R., and a choreographed dance routine by Ryan Ellison and Eric Swain, representatives of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.

"I loved them," Harris said. "It's all about the passion everyone has, and you saw that on stage."

Stephenson summarized the evening.

"You saw students getting nominated for their excellence that they present on campus. You saw art tonight, you saw expression of art and all of that is an expression of Black love."

POLICE BRIEFS

Tuesday, Feb. 20-

DUPO was dispatched for a marijuana call to Duquesne Towers. The two students were referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Tuesday, Feb. 20-

DUPO was dispatched to Brot-tier Hall because of the smell of marijuana. A student was referred to the Campus Judicial Board.

Wednesday, Feb. 21-

DUPO was called due to the smell of marijuana.

Thursday, Feb. 22-

The Resident Director called DUPO about the smell of marijuana. A grinder and bong were found in a room in Duquesne Towers. The student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Thursday, Feb. 22-

An employee called to report that her vehicle was struck in the Forbes Garage. The witness left a note on the victim's car. The actor will be cited with two counts of summary damage to an unattended vehicle and careless driving.

Saturday, Feb. 24-

DUPO was dispatched for an intoxicated female walking to Duquesne Towers from St. Ann Hall.

Saturday, Feb. 24-

Officers responded to a local hospital regarding an intoxicated student who was dropped off there. The student was assisted into the hospital by an officer and was checked into the hospital for treatment.

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

Self declared 'Soupers' line the streets of South Side a sip of soup

from SOUP— page 1

"This year our entry is a kind of Tuscany play on that 'Marry Me' chicken viral-ness that's going around," Lewin said, referencing a viral TikTok recipe from user Gimme Delicious. "It's chicken, sun dried tomatoes, spinach and cream. It has really nice, big umami flavors."

Lewin also expressed his enthusiasm for the event as a community showcase.

"We're just excited to be a part of this," Lewin said. "We want to continue going and helping build up the South Side and get it back to what it used to be."

Sly Fox was serving soup out

of thrift store Zed's on East Carson Street.

According to Zed's owner Zack Edgar, this was his business's first year serving as a stop in the soup contest. He's happy to be a part of an event that shows the South Side in a positive light.

"The more good daytime activities, the better," Edgar said. "That shines a good light on the South Side. We are here everyday, and we see that it's a good place to be, and we love being here."

Christina Pusz, owner of Pittsburgh Primary Eyecare, another stop in the soup contest, second-ed Edgar's enthusiasm around showcasing the South Side.



JACK MORGAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sly Fox's Nick Miller serves the brewery's award-winning Chicken Tuscany Soup in Zeds thrift store.

"It's a way to bring the community together and it's an opportunity for us to collaborate with a restaurant down the street, which we love," Pusz said. "It's also a way for people to just come in and see our practice, and see our business and to meet us."

Pittsburgh Primary Eyecare served a corn chowder from Le Petit Cafe & Grille a few doors down from their office.

Owner of Le Petit Cafe, Amanda Bundy, has been serving soup for the contest for about six years. She said she started participating as a way to showcase her food during a transition period for her restaurant, which formerly only sold chocolate and now serves traditional cafe fare like fresh pastries, omelets and sandwiches.

"We decided that a soup contest would be a great way to expose to everybody that we do more than just sweets," Bundy said.

South Side resident Ryan McElroy has been a souper since 2009 and says he has participated in almost every contest.

"It was the first time we moved into the South Side. We did the soup contest and it was a great introduction [to the neighborhood]," McElroy said.

Garfield resident Lisa Caprera is a second year "souper." She heard

about the event while working at a local bakery. Caprera had to wait before attending her first soup contest due to Covid-19 lockdowns.

"And then as soon as it came back, I was ready," Caprera said. "I love the soup contest. It's great, and it's wonderful."

The winners for this year's South Side Soup Contest were announced on the South Side Soup Contest's Facebook page Sunday.

Margittai Architects, who were serving soup from The Library on Carson, won best host. The Speckled Egg, hosted by COhatch, was voted best veggie. The award for most unique soup went to Carmella's Plates & Pints, who's soup was served in Farmers National Bank. Copies At Carson, Inc. hosted Twelve Whiskey Barbeque, whose soup was the people's choice runner up.

Lewin's Sly Fox Brewing Company, in Zed's, won the people's choice award, making this the second year in a row they have won the contest in the second year they have submitted a soup into the contest.

"We loved everything about the day," Lewin said in a follow-up interview after his restaurant's win. "Our biggest take away is just that Pittsburgh still loves its neighborhoods and not going to let it go."

Greek life tailgate supports philanthropy

KAITLYN HUGHES

staff writer

The Greek Life Tailgate took place in the Auxiliary Gym of the Cooper Fieldhouse prior to the Dukes' basketball game against the La Salle Explorers on Wednesday night.

The tailgate offered the opportunity for chapters of Duquesne's Greek Life to receive a cash prize to be donated to their organization's philanthropy.

The event was sponsored by the Center for Student Involvement, specifically the Greek Life, Commuter Affairs and Parent Relations offices, and the purpose of the event was to bring the Duquesne community together.

The event welcomed several different chapters of Duquesne's Greek life, commuters and families as part of one of the bigger collaborative events organized by the Center for Student Involvement since the Covid-19 pandemic.

"It started off as getting participation in the games, then it became something bigger," Karlie Hill, Assistant Director of Greek Life, said.

According to Hill, the overall goal of the tailgate was to create a "fun environment and event for our students to attend."

Students were able to take part in games inside the gym such as basketball and cornhole, as well as indulge in buffalo chicken dip, walking tacos, mac and cheese and assorted cookies. Greek life members also entered a raffle, and the winner was announced during the following game.

The three chapters with the high-

est percentage of members in attendance were deemed the winners.

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity won first place with a prize of \$1,000.

According to the Kappa Alpha Psi Foundation's philanthropic website, their mission is to encourage the current generation of youth to engage in leading the social, economic and educational change of underserved and underrepresented communities throughout the nation.

Gamma Phi came in second with a prize of \$500.

Their chapter's mission is to serve the future generations in Pittsburgh.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon came in third with a prize of \$250.

Cole Moyer, a brother from Sigma Alpha Epsilon, explained their chapter has four philanthropies they donate to: National Marrow Donor Program, Sleep in Heavenly Peace and Moverment.

However, they plan to donate the \$250 cash prize to the Children's Miracle Network, which is their fraternity's national philanthropy.

"It's very rewarding," Moyer said. "I think it builds character. It's something I look forward to in the fraternity.... It just feels really good to give back."

Although not all chapters of Greek Life won, sisters and brothers from different chapters enjoyed the night.

New members of Gamma Phi Beta used the tailgate to socialize and come meet other people. Many Greek life members said being a part of a sorority or fraternity is a good outlet to create new bonds and expand their network.

Emma O'Connor is a new sister of Gamma Phi Beta and a freshman



BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Left to Right: Ivan Del Toro (Gamma Phi), Kylen Lewis (Gamma Phi), Lauren Sykes (Gamma Phi), CJ Rieder (Gamma Phi), Caitlyn Brannon (Pi Kappa Epsilon), Melanie Tommer (Pi Kappa Epsilon).

from Michigan.

"Moving here I didn't know anybody and it just feels like I now have a second family and people who I can always be around," O'Connor said. "To just be around people who have a likemind as me, that's a really cool environment."

Ciara Mills is a member of Delta Sigma Pi, the professional business fraternity at Duquesne. She said joining the fraternity was the best decision she made at Duquesne.

"When I came to Duquesne I knew no one in the business school, I had no connections, no professional experience," Mills said. "Joining an organization like this really helped to expand my outlook and network."

Many Greek life members brought friends along with them to the tailgate. Non-Greek life member Elisha Schoeneck joined Mills for an after-

noon of free food and activities. They both attended because of their shared love of basketball and the chance to engage with the community.

Schoeneck talked about how she enjoys coming to these events at a smaller school like Duquesne because she gets the chance to meet new people, including higher-ups. She thought it was cool to see the Dean of Students, Adam Wasilko, and President Ken Gormley at the Greek Life tailgate.

Gormley is an honorary brother of Gamma Phi came to show his support and add to the upbeat energy. Gormley said the university has a large value of Duquesne's Greek life community.

"It's because it's part of our culture. It's all about caring about other people and doing things with other people," Gormley said.

Photo Story: Duq students compete in annual "Chopped" cooking event



Macie McCracken, Emma McGinley and Veronica Noel hold their trophies after winning the 9th Annual Duquesne Chopped event. All three participants won \$300 in Flex money. A total of 12 teams participated in the event.



Duquesne's Chopped event took place on Saturday evening in Hogan Dining Hall.

PHOTOS BY BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR
& MARY GENRICH | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Tim Fetter talks into the microphone while hosting the ninth annual Chopped competition. Fetter started the yearly event on campus. Fetter's goal is to give students a fun activity to do on campus while eating good food at the same time. He is the Project Lead - Culinary Innovations and Standards at Parkhurst Dining.



Emma Meixel and Nyonnoh Nyentan celebrate after finding out that they moved on to the second round of the Chopped competition.



Laura Martinez and Mauricio Quintanar cut up beets and tomatoes during the second round of the Chopped competition. The duo finished in fourth place in the event.



Caroline Veltri, James Milbrand and Mia Confer look for ingredients to use for their entrees during the Chopped competition.

Midterm 3 week internet outage explained

EMMA POLEN
editor-in-chief

The network outage that impacted Duquesne on Wednesday was caused by a hardware failure through their internet service provider, according to Tom Dugas.

The outage lasted roughly six hours. Dugas is the Associate VP and Deputy Chief Information Officer and the Chief Information Security Officer of Computing and Technology Services at the university.

First, Dugas and his team identified that there was a hardware failure with Duquesne's internet service provider, First Light. According to Dugas, First Light is responsible for most of the educational internet networks in Pennsylvania.

"The challenge we're facing now," Dugas said, "is that our internet conductivity is so dependent on everyone else on the internet that something else happens that could impact the way that we get service."

Therefore, a network outage from First Light, or even Microsoft, will result in residual outages on Duquesne's campus.

Once First Light found where the hardware failure was that was creating a disruption, "they were able to get our network traffic back to where it needed to be and get us back operational," Dugas said.

Dugas also celebrated his team's work at Duquesne to identify and address the problem as quickly as possible. As of Wednesday afternoon, they remained "focused on what they need to do to make sure there's no further issues with the network," he said.

Around 3 p.m. Wednesday, the issue was resolved. IT Service Desk sent out a campus-wide email, stating, "The issue affecting the campus internet connection has been resolved as of approximately 3 p.m. Students, faculty and staff can now connect to the campus network without further disruption."

"Students can get back to where they need to be," Dugas said.

Writers & Photographers needed for the Duke

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DUQ tags La Salle in second half for win

MICHAEL O'GRADY
staff writer

Duquesne Head Coach Keith Dambrot stresses that his team has fun down the final stretch of the season, and the Dukes certainly had fun Wednesday night when they took down La Salle 75-63 at Cooper Fieldhouse. Winners of three of their last four, Duquesne is now right in the thick of things in the Atlantic-10 Conference

said 30-year-olds in Europe laugh when they play.”

The Explorers weren't laughing after Duquesne dropped 44 points in the second half to seal the win; the Dukes faced a three-point deficit at halftime. Jimmy Clark III led the way with 22 points and eight assists, five of which went to Dusan Mahorcic, who totaled 13 points. The tag must have had a tangible effect on the Europeans of the roster, as Mahorcic

for both teams, yet neither made much advantage of them. La Salle inched forward first and took an 8-point lead with eight minutes left in the first, their largest of the night. The momentum was already shifting by then, though, as Necas hit a tough 3 shortly before that to bring the home crowd to life. La Salle finished the half up by 3, and neither team had a player who tallied 10 points.

The Dukes came out of the tunnel a changed team, embarking on a 14-2 run that nearly lasted five minutes to start the second half. La Salle hit just two free throws, they missed every shot attempt during the run while the Dukes were propelled by big corner 3-pointer from Clark and Kareem Rozier. La Salle Head Coach and Philadelphia legend Fran Dunphy perhaps unwisely stuck to his normal seven-man rotation—his players started freezing up when faced with open shots.

“Coach emphasized to stop worrying about everything else and just go out and play hard,” Clark said. “That was the main focus going into the second half, and being able to execute plays while doing that. So I feel like we did that.”

Mahorcic credited the players behind the scenes for the turnaround.

“The guys who didn't play much, or didn't play at all, they came up and rallied everyone together and said we've got to get this W,” he said. “It might not seem like the people on the sidelines and in the stands are doing much, but they lift us up every time we come out of halftime. I'm just really appreciative of them.”

La Salle cut the lead down to single-digits, but they grew cold again near the end of the game, and the Dukes cruised to the win, avenging their loss in the A-10 Tournament last March. Clark may have been remembering that when he capped the game with an emphatic tomahawk slam with 40 seconds to go.

As for this year's tournament, Dambrot isn't focused on a particular seed to capture. The A-10's volatility can result in a wide array of different opponents.

“Well, it doesn't look like we can get a double bye,” he said, “and everyone else is the damn same, so what's the difference? Whether you're seventh or ninth or whatever, I don't know who's better for us. Dayton's probably the best team in the conference, or maybe it's Loyola. But we just need to play our game, because I watched our tournament game from last year and we stunk.”

Dambrot will get his answer next Saturday, but first the Dukes play their last two road games of the year Saturday at George Mason and Tuesday at VCU. They finish the campaign at home against George



BRENTARO YAMANE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Jimmy Clark III recorded eight assists—one short of his career high—in Duquesne's victory.

standings, holding a three-way tie for fifth place while posting a 7-8 record. Dambrot has been forced to find unconventional strategies to win since the rocky 0-4 A-10 start, but for this particular game?

“We played tag on Monday,” Dambrot said. “Dru [Joyce III] said they play in Europe all the time as a warm-up. So we played two different types of tag. Grown men were laughing, you'd think they would be in first or second grade, but Dru

combined with Jakub Necas and Matus Hronsky for 21 points, the most scored in a league game this season by Duquesne's European players. The Dukes were also strong defensively, forcing 13 turnovers from a normally-careful La Salle team and limiting the Explorers to just seven second-chance points.

The first half was messy, as has been the story with many Duquesne games this season. Offensive rebounds were plenty



BRENTARO YAMANE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Dusan Mahorcic sets up in the post.

Lacrosse wins fourth straight over Akron

JACK MORGAN
staff writer

After a brutal 20-2 loss in the City Game to start the 2024 season, things have changed in a drastic way for the Duquesne Dukes. They capped off a perfect homestand with a 12-9 win over the Akron Zips at Rooney Field on Tuesday.

“I thought they really gritted it out,” said Head Coach Corinne Desrosiers. “You could see them mentally slipping, and it's our third game in six days, so they were definitely a little gassed.”

Mackenzie Leszczynski recorded four goals and two assists in the game, and the first came as a response to the first goal of the game from the Zips' Macy Vail. The game continued to see-saw back and forth with both sides responding after being scored on. Duquesne started to break away with a 3-0 scoring run in the second quarter to make it 6-3. However, Akron went on a 3-0 run of their own, in less than two minutes. Jaelyn Clinkscales scored two of the three goals on that run

to aid her team in tying the game. Corinne Webb and the Dukes snapped back with a quick goal before the end of the half to make it 7-6 at halftime.

Akron responded with two goals in the first four minutes of the third quarter. Heather Carey and Vail came through for the Zips and gave them an 8-7 lead. The game started to slow down from there, until Duquesne took full control.

Emma Raines kicked off the party, scoring off a feed from Leszczynski to tie the game at 8 with 3:18 to go in the third. Leszczynski scored the go-ahead goal just 44 seconds into the fourth and assisted on the next goal from Charlotte Stamper less than five minutes later.

Ali Evans got her first goal of the year a couple minutes after off a feed for Lindsay Newton. Jillian Caroselli put the dagger in the hearts of Akron fans when she scored with just over six minutes to play. Akron did tack on one more thanks to Clinkscales' nifty goal, but it was too little, too late.

Desrosiers thought the Dukes did a

good job finding a way to win the game, despite the difficulties of the six-day stretch they have been on.



CHRISTIAN DAIKELER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Corinne Webb scored her team-leading 16th goal of the season on Tuesday.

“But they did it, they dug out of the hole that they kind of made for themselves, they took care of possessions a little bit more, not the way we would've liked to have seen it, but I'm kind of linking that up to a lot of fatigue.”

Duquesne did turn the ball over 20 times, but Akron turned over three more times.

Leszczynski scored her 100th career point in Tuesday's contest, which only furthers the legacy she is building for Duquesne lacrosse.

“It is so exciting,” Leszczynski said. “Obviously our program has gone through a lot with wins and losses and people transferring in. We had a lot of transfers in here, people transferring out, so it's so great to be able to stick with this program because I know how much this program has to offer, and I know how much I have to offer.”

Leszczynski will look to add to that tally this weekend in Radford, VA as the Dukes will take on the Radford Highlanders on Saturday. The action is set to get underway at 11 a.m.

Dukes’ win streak comes to an end at 6

ROWAN DUBOIS
staff writer

The Duquesne Women’s Basketball team’s six-game win streak came to an end on Wednesday, as they were defeated on a trip to conference-leaders Richmond, 90-74.

Duquesne upset the Spiders in Cooper Fieldhouse this January, but this time they played in Richmond, where the Spiders haven’t lost all season.

The game had big implications on the Atlantic-10 Conference standings, as the Dukes needed a win to keep their hopes of finishing first alive. Richmond sat in first with a conference record of 14-2

In the first quarter, both teams struggled to break into the paint. The Dukes couldn’t score on their first five possessions, and they fell behind early. Finally, a shot fell for the Dukes as Tess Myers knocked down a 3. The game began to look like a 3-point contest, as 12 of the

first 13 shot attempts were from behind the arc.

Myers kept the game close with 6 points as the teams traded buckets. However, Richmond’s array of offensive options gave them a 21-17 lead over Duquesne to end the first quarter.

Richmond’s offense heated up in the second quarter. The Spiders started off the quarter with a 9-0 run, and 5 points from Rachel Ullstrom would eventually push Richmond up a 13-point margin.

After a timeout late in the second, Duquesne initiated the full-court press to put more pressure on the Spiders. However, Richmond made it difficult for Duquesne to generate turnovers, only giving up two in the first half. Two late 3s got the Dukes back in it though, including a corner bucket from Lauren Wasylson to cut the Richmond lead to 46-38 at the half.

Richmond got off to an electric start in the third quarter, attacking the paint and getting out in front by 16. After the run from the Spiders, the pace of the game slowed down severely, which was of no help for the Dukes, who needed to amass points quickly if they were going to get back in the game.

It was a physical battle in the quarter, as the teams combined for 13 fouls. Richmond’s Laren VanArnsdale began to light up the scoreboard in the third, knocking

down a big layup while being fouled to give the Spiders a 21-point lead.

VanArnsdale and Grace Townsend combined for 20 points in the third quarter alone, as the Spiders ended the quarter with the game’s biggest lead, 76-54.

Duquesne had a tough task starting the fourth quarter, as they needed quick stops and quick buckets. The Dukes started off the quarter perfectly, with an 8-3 lead. The Dukes were generating turnovers off the full-court press, a symbol that they were going to fight until the final whistle.

The Richmond offense proved to be too strong, as they continued to make shots over strong Duquesne defense. Spiders got their lead back to 20 and iced the game to a final score of 90-74.

Five Richmond players had double digits and 73 of the Spiders’ points. Townsend was Richmond’s team high scorer, with 19 points. Maggie Doogan also had an impressive stat line for the Spiders, with 14 points, six assists and six rebounds.

Megan McConnell had 19 points for the Dukes, and Nae Bernard was the game-high scorer with 20. The loss was the Dukes first loss of February, as they were undefeated in their first six games of the month.

Duquesne will finish their regular season with a big matchup against Saint Joseph’s on Saturday, March 2 in Pittsburgh.



COUERTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Megan McConnell drives inside during Duquesne’s 16-point loss to Richmond on Wednesday, which drops the Dukes to fifth place in the conference standings, looking up at the coveted double bye.

Minutemen march out of Atlantic-10

Duquesne’s athletic conference just got a little bit smaller. The Mid-American Conference announced on Monday that the University of Massachusetts will be leaving the Atlantic-10 Conference at the end of the 2024-25 academic year. UMass will return to the MAC, where they played football from 2012 to 2015, and are bringing all of its athletic programs along to the new conference.

While it is certainly a downgrade from a basketball standpoint, the move was clearly made with football in mind, as the Minutemen were the only A-10 team with an FBS program, one that was stuck as an independent in the most financially rewarding sport. They are trading their basketball relevance for TV money from a bottom-tier football conference.

The move cuts the A-10 back down to 14 teams, as the Minutemen are essentially replaced by Loyola Chicago, which joined the conference in 2022.

A-10 MBB Standings

A-10 WBB Standings

Rank	Team (AP National Poll)	A-10	Overall	NET (national ranking)
1.	Richmond	13-2	21-7	72
2.	Dayton (21)	12-3	22-5	20
3.	Loyola Chicago	12-3	20-8	92
4.	VCU	11-4	20-8	76
5.	UMass	9-7	18-10	87
6.	St. Bonaventure	9-7	18-10	71
7.	George Mason	7-8	18-10	89
8.	Saint Joseph’s	7-8	17-11	99
9.	Duquesne	7-8	17-11	105
10.	Fordham	6-9	12-16	182
11.	Davidson	5-10	15-13	108
12.	Rhode Island	5-10	11-17	199
13.	La Salle	5-11	14-15	193
14.	George Washington	3-12	14-14	203
15.	Saint Louis	3-12	10-18	216

Rank	Team	A-10	Overall	NET
1.	Richmond	15-2	25-5	54
2.	Saint Joseph’s	14-3	25-4	55
3.	VCU	14-3	25-4	72
4.	George Mason	14-3	18-3	64
5.	Duquesne	13-4	18-10	126
6.	Rhode Island	9-8	17-13	83
7.	Davidson	8-9	18-8	77
8.	Loyola Chicago	8-9	14-14	164
9.	Fordham	8-9	12-15	183
10.	Saint Louis	8-9	13-17	160
11.	George Washington	5-12	12-17	194
12..	Dayton	5-12	11-17	242
13.	La Salle	4-13	7-21	298
14..	UMass	2-16	4-26	289
15.	St. Bonaventure	1-16	4-24	280

The Duke’s sports movie rankings

To celebrate the final issue before the Oscars, the sports section of *The Duke* is ranking our favorite sports movies. Our staff compiled their own ranking, which is accompanied by the editor’s picks.

Staff Ranking:

1. *The Sandlot*
2. *Cool Runnings*
3. *Remember the Titans*
4. *42*
5. *Moneyball*
6. *Rocky*
7. *Field of Dreams*
8. *Happy Gilmore*
9. *A League of Their Own*
10. *Rudy*

Spencer’s Picks:

1. *Moneyball*
2. *Rush*
3. *Remember the Titans*
4. *The Fighter*
5. *Miracle*
6. *Major League*
7. *Raging Bull*
8. *Friday Night Lights*
9. *Hustle*
10. *The Perfect Game*

'Freezin' for a Reason' at Acrisure Stadium

HANNAH PETERS
staff writer

Outside of Acrisure Stadium on the brisk and snowy morning of Feb. 24, a crowd gathered in front of a stage centered around three above-ground pools. The parking lot was full of tailgaters, and people in swimwear were forming a line while Randy Baumann from DVE Morning Show and iHeart-Radio was on stage getting ready to announce the record-breaking news.

"This year with the help of law enforcement, our athletes, our corporate partners and each of you here today, I am pleased to announce ... It's pretty unbelievable ... We have broken a record this year at the Pittsburgh Polar Plunge," said Baumann over the speakers. "I am unbelievably happy and excited to relay to you that for the first time ever, the Pittsburgh Polar Plunge has raised over \$1 million."

True to their catchphrase, "Freezin' for a Reason," the Polar Plunge is an annual fundraising event for the Special Olympics where 'plungers' fundraise money and jump into chilly waters to show their support.

With the total raised amount of \$1.1 million, the Special Olympics will be able to support 350 athletes in the Three Rivers region for an entire year. Offering 24 sports, the organization provides athletes with access to training, competitions (including transportation), health screenings and leadership training free of charge.

Setting a record for Special Olympics Pennsylvania, this year's funds surpassed all expectations as they raised over \$300,000 more than the year prior and had an original goal of \$750,000. The event also saw the most participants in Pittsburgh Polar Plunge history — over 4,000 plungers showed up on Saturday.

Plungers were able to register either as a team or an individual and were required to pay a general registration fee of \$50 to participate but were encouraged to fundraise further. Among the many generous and courageous plungers, Duquesne was represented in the form of four freshmen who ended up plunging twice, once for the cause and a second time for fun.

"It was freezing, but doing it together made it worth it — and supporting the Special Olympics obviously," said



HANNAH PETERS | STAFF WRITER

Duquesne freshmen Emma Rowe (left), Ashley Coretti (center left), Mia White (center right) and Aubree Yocum (right) 'plunged' into the icy waters outside Acrisure Stadium twice to benefit Special Olympics athletes in the Three Rivers area.

Duquesne student Mia White.

Also in attendance were several costumed individuals including Steelman, Pope Yinzer, Johnny the Snowman, Steeler Jesus and PGH Steely. Bringing his son to plunge with him, the man behind PGH Steely, Garret Fleet, told *The Duke* that supporting the athletes and their families was the reason he and the others decided to plunge.

"We're trying to support people who can't do it for themselves. [We are] just trying to do something good," Fleet said. "[Special Olympics athletes] should have the same opportunities as everybody else."

The first to plunge into the freezing waters and a major player in making the whole event possible was the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police. As partners for the event, law enforcement has historically held close ties with the Special Olympics on a national scale since they founded the Law Enforcement Torch Run in 1981.

Former Pittsburgh Police Chief Scott Schubert was credited with having the vision for starting the Polar Plunge in Pittsburgh 14 years ago. Representatives from several counties showed up for support, with Chief Matthew Porter of Port Authority Police recognized as the top individual fundraiser for this year's event, raising over \$26,000.

Andrew Fee, Executive Director of Special Olympics Pennsylvania's Three Rivers Region, said that law enforcement is a major reason for the success of the Pittsburgh Polar Plunge.

"Law enforcement has been the most important part," Fee said. "Law enforcement and our athletes really work hard to get a lot of people here to support."

Events like these also allow the community to interact with those who serve them. Not only was law enforcement a major presence, but the North Huntingdon EMS/Rescue and Irwin EMS donated their services by staying in the pools and assisting plungers for the entire event.

With an event that now includes a live DJ, tailgating, face painting, games, a duck raffle, food, a selfie station and the University of Pittsburgh cheer and dance squad, Fee explained that a lot goes on behind the scenes. More than 200 volunteers showed up on Saturday to help run the event.

"It takes months and months of planning, a lot of volunteers, law enforcement, staff time ... It's our biggest event of the year," Fee said.

Volunteer and mom to a Special Olympic athlete, Terri Jagielski, has remained actively involved with Special Olympics, working as a coach for 28 years in addition to being a

managing member of the Allegheny County team. She said that the athletes themselves are what inspire her to be involved.

"It's the most rewarding thing I have ever been a part of," Jagielski said. "My job as a coach is to coach or to teach. But they taught me way more than I could ever teach them. They are the most loyal, the most loving, the most thankful people you could ever, ever, ever meet."

Her son, Chris Jagielski, was an athlete for 25 years, as a golf competitor. Through the Special Olympics, he had the chance to compete at universities around the country and even traveled to China for the 2007 World Summer Games in Shanghai.

"Special Olympics has opened doors to so many new and better opportunities," Chris Jagielski said. "I've got to meet friends from all over."

Helping to make Special Olympics opportunities possible, the Polar Plunge serves not only as a means to fundraise but to raise awareness and bring the community together for a special cause.

"I think it's a crazy thing; it's very unique," Fee said. "It's like all of us — we're all unique, we all have unique abilities and that's what we try to highlight here at Special Olympics. It's just a crazy Pittsburgh thing to do."

CAMPUS EVENTS

Premieres 47
Feb. 29 to Mar. 1 @ 8 p.m.

Watch four student written and directed one act plays in Genesis Theater!

Tea With Towers
Mar. 1 @ 2 p.m.

Ask Towers prostaff anything over a cup of tea in the Towers Lobby.

Summer Abroad.
Hold Your Spot!
Mar. 10 @ 2 p.m.

The Center for Global Engagement is hosting a summer abroad program showcase in Union 601.

Pie Your RA
Mar. 11 @ 6 p.m.

Donate \$4 or more and get a chance to pie your Towers RA!

Pizza and PJs!
Mar. 12 @ 9 p.m.

Join Gamma Sigma Sigma for a pizza pj party in the NiteSpot.

EMILY'S EPIPHANIES

Escalators

Often times in life, we are confronted with the realization that we move at different speeds than our friends, family members or coworkers.

Think of yourself as holding hands with your best friend.

Now imagine that you are on two separate escalators, side-by-side.

It can be really difficult to hold someone's hand when your escalators stop, start, slow down or speed up at different times.

It is not unlikely that you will find different jobs, different romantic partners or different opportunities for personal growth.

This doesn't mean that you must break your relationship to people that don't align with you every step of the way.

Instead, cheer them on from where they are. Take stock of where you are, too. Don't sacrifice your journey of growth to mirror someone else's.

— Emily Fritz

Aquarius ♒

The call is coming from inside the house I fear.

Gemini ♊

Booty love?
Like that song from *Grease*?

Libra ♎

It's the same exact motion as corn dog.

Pisces ♓

Spent the day feeling like a complete tuna melt.

Cancer ♋

It's giving China for sure.

Scorpio ♏

Similar to J.K. Rowling, it just keeps getting worse...

Aries ♈

Just a simple gal trying to challenge the soup-to-pasta ratio.

Leo ♌

Back in my day, we didn't have roads. We just drove straight through the forest.

Sagittarius ♐

What in the invisible string theory is this?

Taurus ♉

♪ And the Piano sounds like a PIANO ♪

Virgo ♍

Where's that groundhog?
I just want a quick word.

Capricorn ♐

I need to turn in a 2 week notice. It's so stinky.

'The Book of Mormon': An engaging laugh and a half

EMMA POLEN
editor-in-chief

A production that would “blow God’s freaking mind,” “The Book of Mormon” returns to the national stage for a faithful revival of the classic 2011 musical comedy.

This week, “The Book of Mormon” marked its latest stop on national tour with a visit to Pittsburgh, presented by the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, a season-special part of the 2023-2024 PNC Broadway in Pittsburgh series.

Elder Price (Sam McLellan) and Elder Cunningham (Sam Nackman) take off to a remote village in central Africa to spread the Good Word, but their attempts are halted by the corrupt tyrant General Butt [Expletive] Naked and a general lack of enthusiasm from the locals. However, a relationship between Elder Cunningham and the young African woman Nabulungi (Keke Nesbitt) quickly turns things around, as does Cunningham’s knack for imaginative storytelling.

McLellan does a good job acting as a Mormon progressively losing his faith, while Nackman lives up to the original Elder Cunningham, played by Josh Gad, with breathy revelations, soaring vibrato and quirky dance moves.

Nesbitt’s performance as Nabulungi maintains a level of masterful singing, even in her first solo of the

show, “Sal Tlay Ka Siti,” where the entire premise is that she mishears Salt Lake City and believes that this city will serve as paradise for her village. Nesbitt, a Penn State University grad making her national tour debut, sings quietly and wistfully, reflecting

the exactly-two-and-a-half-hour-long production.

From the lights to the choreography and costumes, every aspect of “The Book of Mormon” at the Benedum contributed to the point of the story – that it’s not supposed to be taken

seamlessly changed into sparkling pink suit vests in seconds while the stage was black.

The scenic backdrops that came down from the ceiling even interacted with the characters on stage. During “You and Me (But Mostly Me),” Elder Price confidently proclaims that he will be the one to convert the people of Uganda to Mormonism where all others have failed. During the musical number, a blue screen rolled down to eliminate all distractions from Price.

Even the movement of set items between scenes held humor. When Elders Price and Cunningham arrive at their African missionary house, and settle down under the covers for their first night in Uganda, the bed zooms off the stage, with the two Mormon missionaries on board.

The Mormon ensemble gave off major “Kenergy” through their identical white collared shirt, black tie and dress pants costumes along with dazzlingly in-sync dance moves. While the cast sings phenomenally, they were all spectacular dancers as well, playing up the carbon copy fashion of their missionary identities.

With all of these comedic elements within “The Book of Mormon,” were there any parts of the story that the audience was supposed to take seriously? The answer: no, but “The Book of Mormon” is a show that’s over dra-

matic. And the cast overdoes it well.

The cast made sure to contribute plenty of false sincerity, or at least make the audience “just believe” that they thought what they were doing was serious. Elder McKinley and Moroni (the All-American Angel), both played by Sean Casey Flanagan, have plenty of sass mixed into their important roles leading the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Again, the Mormon ensemble did a stellar job at seeming genuine in their belief that they’ve become one with the people of Uganda, while also making people laugh at the ridiculousness of their dialogue.

The opening night audience took plenty of opportunities to laugh out loud during the show, often reaching levels of reaction that rivaled the voices mic’d up on stage. Even a reactive “Oh” was heard trickling across the concert hall when Elder Price said he wasn’t Elder Cunningham’s best friend to his crestfallen missionary partner.

Join in the fun and go see “The Book of Mormon,” which will be showing at the Benedum Center for the Performing Arts through Sunday. Student tickets can be purchased at the university student tickets page of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust website (www.TrustArts.com), or by using the promotional code 2324DUQ at checkout.



PHOTO BY JULIETA CERVANTES | THE BOOK OF MORMON NORTH AMERICAN TOUR
Keke Nesbitt (far left), Sam Nackman (far right) and 'The Book of Mormon' ensemble (center) created a charming satire in their depiction of Mormon mission work.

the character’s hope in reaching this perfect place.

The musical comedy is “something incredible,” but not for the faint of heart. There are a fair amount of f-bombs, along with other inappropriate allusions. However, the crude language and poking-fun at Mormonism, in a show about Mormons, add to the overall comedic nature of

seriously.

Musicians in the live orchestra and the stage lighting turned on and off perfectly together throughout the two acts, in a sort of abrupt story transition, similar to the smash cut that marks many cinematic comedies. Lighting was used for another comedic advantage during “Turn It Off,” when the Mormon missionary en-

National Aviary ‘fla-mingles’ education, conservation efforts

EMILY FRITZ
a&e editor

Laughter accompanied the honking coming from the “Wetlands” of the National Aviary on Saturday as guests from all over came to see the American flamingos. Rizzo, one of the social scarlets in the flock, hung by the visitor railing to show off his pretty-in-pink wings and “flamingle” with his new friends.

Last weekend the National Aviary held their annual “Flamingo Fest,” complete with brightly feathered flamboyance, educational opportunities for guests of all ages

and valentine-themed enrichment activities for their other winged residents.

“[Flamingo Fest] is our most popular weekend event by far. It is attended by flamingo fans, bird fans, pink fans, just general aviary fans, and they get very excited,” said digital marketing specialist Britta Moletz. “And it is a great way for us to raise awareness for our animal conservation efforts and the work we do every single day at the National Aviary.”

The day was chock-full of different activities, like “Flamingo Talk,” which took place in the Wetlands

wing of the aviary. Here, visitors learned more about common flamingo myths, their usual diets, natural habitat and breeding behaviors.

The vibrant feathers that we are used to seeing are actually caused by a flamingo’s diet – microscopic shrimp and algae. At birth, the bird has white-gray feathers but the deep scarlet and pink pigmentation in their plumage is a tell-tale sign of their nutritious diets during development.

Similarly, flamingos are well-known for standing on one leg, with one “knee” bent backwards. In reality, many birds stand on one leg, but the flamingo’s long legs make their balancing act better known.

“It may look like their leg is bending backwards, but they are actually bending their ankle! A flamingo’s knee is higher up on the leg, close to the body,” the National Aviary’s website said.

In addition to the mini seminar on flamingos, guests could create a flamingo sun catcher craft, learn new bio-facts, participate in kid-friendly, flamingo-inspired yoga and complete interactive activities, which focused on the filter system that flamingos possess in their bills.

The nonprofit’s regularly scheduled events sold out due to the increase in attendance for the flamingo-themed festivities.

“All of our animal encounters, which allow you to get closer to certain species like the Linnaeus two-toed sloth and African penguin ... were all sold out way ahead of time. Our Rainbow lorikeet feedings sold out. Our 11 a.m. ‘Habitat Heroes’ [show] was sold out,” Moletz said.

Using the bright pink bird as the focal point of “Flamingo Fest” allowed the National Aviary to attract guests and expose them to more members of the bird world.

“Once you can get that person through the door and make a connection with a bird like a flamingo, it becomes so much easier to make a connection with a small bird like an owl finch, which most people probably have never even heard of,” said Christa Gaus, Senior Manager of Animal Programs.

With the help of the National Aviary and other Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) accredited institutions, the Guam rail, a small flightless bird, has been hatched and reintroduced to the wild, going from ‘extinct in the wild’ to ‘critically endangered,’ a huge feat for the species. Similarly, the Guam kingfisher bird, which is currently ‘extinct in the wild’ is on a path to recovery with the National Aviary.

“It is up to AZA accredited facilities to build that population and then eventually, hopefully reintroduce them into the wild and build a

new population,” Gaus said.

“Using a flamingo to get them in and then to teach that additional conservation messaging is really key,” Moletz said.

In addition to their efforts to rebuild critically endangered species, the National Aviary provides the public with resources to create their own impactful changes.

The “Lights Out Pittsburgh Movement” encourages locals to turn off their non-essential lights from Sept. 1 to Nov. 15 during nighttime hours. Doing so assists with seasonal migration, preventing navigation disruptions for hundreds of thousands of birds.

For those looking for more involvement, the National Aviary has a rolling application for volunteers on their website, <https://www.aviary.org/about-us/jobs/volunteer/>. Students can also hone their skills by applying for an internship opportunity with the nonprofit, with applications open until Mar. 7.

Events similar to “Flamingo Fest” will be coming to the National Aviary in the coming months, with “Eggstravaganza” at the end of March and “Penguin Palooza” in April.

“The more awareness that we can raise about the big species,” Gaus said, “also allows us to raise awareness about those lesser known species as well.”



PHOTO BY ELLIOTT CRAMER | COURTESY OF NATIONAL AVIARY
Marilyn (front center) the American Flamingo, serves as an ambassador bird for the National Aviary by educating guests in-house through up-close interaction.

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“On a bus, your eyes, ears,
and pores are open, ab-
sorbing in the variety, the
wonder, the magic of the
city. It is a beautiful way to
get to know the city.”

George Takei

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 theduqduke@gmail.com by 5 p.m. Tuesday. The editors reserve the right to edit any and all submitted copies. All letters must be verified before being published.

Corrections/clarifications

The Feb. 22, edition *The Duke* contained an error that nearly 30% of Duquesne students experience food insecurity.

Contact

email: theduqduke@gmail.com



LUKE POLEN | GUEST CARTOONIST AND FIFTH-GRADE PROSPECTIVE DUKE

Oh, the places you'll go ... on the city bus.

Public transit for Duquesne now!

KAITLYN HUGHES

staff writer

With a commuter population of 4,700 students in a major city, it is time Duquesne considers embedding public transit costs within tuition.

According to Pittsburgh Regional Transit's website, the UPass system was developed to give students attending colleges and universities in Allegheny County the opportunity to utilize public transit at a discounted rate.

There are six universities located within the city of Pittsburgh. Duquesne is the only university that does not give their students the privilege of using PRT services free of charge by including transportation fees in tuition. The university restricts options to monthly invoice statements, payroll deduction or opting to add transit bills to student accounts.

By covering public transit fees within tuition, the university would reduce parking and car related stress. It would also give students greater access to the Pittsburgh community, allowing them to work and volunteer off campus.

At \$14 for 2 to 12 hours in the Forbes and Locust parking garages, or \$600 for a semester parking pass, the price of parking a car can be prohibitive to many commuter students. They also have to spend excess time and money to maintain their vehicle.

In addition, according to Scott Richards, assistant vice president of auxiliary services, between the Forbes and Locust Garages, the Chatham Garage, campus streets and surface parking lots there are only 3,148 available spots for all 4,700 commuter students. Not to mention campus residents who keep their cars parked on campus.

High parking fees and inability to find a parking space can leave students stressed.

Marlee Richards, a commuter living in the South Side, explained some of the inconveniences she faces with the parking situation.

“You really have to account for traffic. There is a lot of traffic in the mornings,” Richards said. “Sometimes in the parking garage you might not find a spot on a lower floor, so you have to account for time to drive up and look for a spot.”

The time searching for a spot in the garage would be mitigated if students were able to opt for a fare-free ride to campus.

The University of Pittsburgh recognizes the tribulations of parking and urges commuter students to use public transit, only giving parking passes to commuter students with “unique needs,” according to their website.

Students who show up to campus to find a lack of open parking spots are more likely to be late or skip class. If students were able to get off of public transit and directly report to class it would be more convenient to show up.

Duquesne would be wise in joining other universities in the city by deciding to include transportation fees in tuition.

Parking is not the only than issue free access to public transit would work to solve.

It would also relieve stress during times of inclement weather.

On Jan. 19, 2023, Duquesne canceled all classes scheduled before 10 a.m. Due to a snowstorm and fear that commuting students would not be able to attend class. PRT services were still running that morning. If the university ensures that all students have access to public transit, then they may not have to worry about canceling class, which effectively wastes students' tuition dollars.

The ultimate goal of free public transit is to give Duquesne students an enjoyable, convenient and fulfilling college experience.

A prospective study done in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* researched potential outcomes of giving students in primary through post secondary education in Los Angeles access to free public transport. The benefits found from this study included increased attendance, increased freedom and mobility and increased disposable income.

Some may argue that including transportation would raise Duquesne's already high-priced tuition, therefore being counterproductive. While this extra charge seems daunting, it would be a useful resource to any student attending Duquesne.

Duquesne students are charged \$1.82 by Upass for every ride they take. With 71 days of classes prior to the week of final examinations this would cost students using public transit about \$258.44 per semester. According to Pitt's tuition rates and fees, students are required to pay \$260 per year to cover transportation costs. Clearly, Duquesne students are being overcharged.

Another valuable opposing argument is that not all students utilize transportation services throughout the city. However, with free and convenient access to public transit, these students would gravitate toward these services.

If all commuter and non-commuter students had free access to public transit they would be able to explore the diverse areas of Pittsburgh. Whether traveling Downtown for an internship, crossing over to the North Shore for a Steelers or Pirates game or visiting a new restaurant in the South Side, Duquesne students' experience would be enhanced.

Free public transit would allow students to get on the bus and go to numerous grocery stores located throughout Pittsburgh, ride the incline to explore Mount Washington or visit friends and family around Pittsburgh with less worries.

STAFF
EDITORIALPay students and staff
more for their work

The post-college future holds bright possibilities, but most of us will be graduating with big smiles ... and student loan payments.

The combined undergraduate tuition rate for the fall/spring semesters is officially listed as \$48,986 on Duquesne's website, before financial aid kicks in. It's an interesting predicament — making grocery purchases on our credit cards while the student loans stack up in the background. And for many of us, those experiential learning opportunities that the university has a whole page about on their website are not going to even come close to covering those costs.

For this reason, it is time for Duquesne to consider higher pay for its employees. From food service or adjunct professorship, these part-time associates should have a better opportunity to pursue an education without graduating with heaps of student debt, or relying on food stamps or city food pantries.

According to the most recent data from the Division of Student Life, there are about 100 individuals officially signed up using the campus Brother Keating's food pantry, the most utilized of three pantries that exist on campus, according to university spokesperson Gabe Welsch.

These employees are essential for the way Duquesne functions everyday. No food service workers? Well, guess no one's eating today. No adjunct professors? That's more of a load on full-time professors who are not even working in the fields they're teaching students about.

Experience is the best way to learn, and Duquesne should be rewarding those who find ways to apply their learning in the field, not making them take up a second job or apply for food pantries because an education AND a job is too much of a burden to bear.

A 2019 meta-analysis from the Journal of Innovative Education found that, over a period of 43 years, “students experienced superior learning outcomes when experiential pedagogies were employed.”

An adjunct professor currently working in corporate communications would, essentially, know more about corporate communications than someone who hasn't worked in the field in ten years.

Sometimes, students are even asked to pay for internship credit or other forms of experiential learning, where they are working, by themselves.

Liberal arts internships are often unpaid. The English department encourages its students to apply for internships at a number of local organization partners, but only for the chance at class credit.

If Duquesne student and staff's work is so vital, let's pay people accordingly. We shouldn't be paying the university for additional external experiences, we should be the ones getting paid.

OPINIONS

This might be the year for Bob Nutting and the Pirates

REBECCA JOZWIAK
staff writer

Pittsburgh sports are known for legendary victories. The Pirates with five World Series titles, the Penguins with five Stanley Cups and the Steelers with six Super Bowl victories, tying them with the New England Patriots for the most league championships. Not to mention legendary players like Terry Bradshaw, Roberto Clemente and Mario Lemieux.

But Steel City sports, like all things, are not free of failure.

Most of those failures are products of the Pittsburgh Pirates. In the past five seasons, the Pirates have a combined record of 287 wins to 421 losses. There has been opportunity for improvement — like the 2018 trade that saw Tampa Bay Rays pitcher Chris Archer land with the Pirates — but Archer didn't stick with the club for long. Archer went 3-9 with a 5.19 earned run average in his lone full year with the Pirates in 2019. He retired in 2022.

Although some players have not panned out with the Pirates, the problem lies within their front office — namely Bob Nutting. Nutting has been the owner of the Pirates since January 2007; according to *CNBC*, Nutting is worth \$1.1 billion, while the Pirates projected payroll for the 2024 season is just over \$75 million.

The Bucs payroll has striking differences from most Major League Baseball

teams: Nutting's team ranks 29th out of 30 teams in the 2024 payroll; the only team that trails Pittsburgh are the Oakland Athletics, who have a budget of \$40 million per offseason. The average salary for MLB players clocks in at \$4.9 million per year, according to financial estimates from *Statista*. Based on information provided by *Spotrac*, utilizing 14 available player contracts, the average yearly salary for a Pirates player is \$3,959,007 per year.

Nutting has had opportunity after opportunity to utilize his massive fortune, but still opts to take cheaper routes in order to preserve the team's money; an article written by *The Athletic* highlights how drastic Nutting's penny-pinching methods have been throughout the years.

When former general manager Neal Huntington requested an \$8 million renovation to the clubs spring training complex in Florida, three sources alleged that Nutting told Huntington that the finances for the project would need to come out of the baseball operations budget — which covers the salaries of players and costs for scouting opportunities.

It seems as if Nutting has his organization's hands tied behind their back, as he let go of the team's Double-A affiliate coach Jon Nunnally at the conclusion of the 2024 season. After having a below-average hitting percentage for nearly two seasons, third baseman Ke'Bryan Hayes decided to take matters into his own hands and work with Nunnally for

hitting advice. Hayes and Nunnally kept their sessions confidential; their meetings benefited Hayes, as he averaged a .318 batting average and hit 10 home runs in the span of two months — an improvement from the beginning of the 2023 season.

After the front office learned about the meetings, they were upset, Nunnally told *The Athletic*. He was then let go in the last week of the Pirate's 2023 regular season.

Nutting continues to display a lack of willingness to spend money on big-name players. He also repeatedly demonstrates his inability to build off of successes that did not occur under his supervision, proven by his response to the Nunnally-Hayes situation.

Although there was potential for the Pirates to make a deep run at the playoffs after marvelous winning seasons in 2013-2015, their record has fallen extremely short of the promising era the team went through in those three years — but are times changing?

The likely answer to that question is no, but Nutting has shown promising signs of extending contracts of talented players, such as Hayes. In April 2022, Hayes signed an eight-year \$70 million extension with the team. A year later, in April 2023, outfielder Bryan Reynolds signed the biggest contract in team history, extending his stay for eight years while earning \$106 million. On Friday, Nutting inked 2023 All-Star Mitch

Keller to a five-year, \$77 million extension as well.

The extensions create a sense of leadership and responsibility between Keller, Hayes and Reynolds, and emphasizes that the trio are a core group to work around. Aroldis Chapman, fresh off a World Series Championship with the Texas Rangers, agreed to a one year, \$10.6 million deal with the Pirates, giving the team an older, more experienced veteran presence.

Given that he signed Chapman and Keller to relatively expensive deals, Nutting seems to be attempting to turn a new leaf within the organization. Although Nutting has proven that he can spend money, we still do not know how these players will do in the 2024 season. So far, the Pirates are winless in three spring training games. Keller made his spring training debut on Saturday, pitching two innings and giving up one hit. The team ended up losing 2-0 to the Baltimore Orioles.

Chapman is yet to pitch for the team, but it is only a matter of time before the deals that Nutting has shelled out prove their worth. Most baseball fans say that a team's spring training season does not reflect how they will play in the regular season — which means that the only thing we can do until Opening Day is to wait and hope that this is the year that the team dynamic will finally fall into place.

Protest vote in primary threatens Biden campaign

ELIYAHU GASSON
opinions editor

The virtue of democracy is that it gives people the opportunity to choose who represents them in government. We are not ruled by some despot in a palace or a gaggle of oligarchs who hide in mansions.

The downside — people are fallible, a fact made evident in Michigan this week.

This Tuesday saw the Michigan primary, where residents of the wolverine state voted on who they wanted to represent their party in the upcoming presidential election.

Donald Trump won the Republican primary, beating rival Nikki Haley by a margin of 41.6% according to the Associated Press. Joe Biden, too, won his party's primary with 81.1% of Democratic voters electing him.

The primary yielded generally unremarkable results for anyone paying attention to the presidential race. Trump and Biden have been dominating their respective opponents since the Iowa Caucus in January which kicked off election season.

However, the results of the Michigan primary signal danger for Biden and the Democrats. A protest vote led by pro-Palestinian activists in the state pushed registered Democrats who were unhappy with Biden's apparent support for Israeli violent offensive action in their war with Hamas to vote uncommitted. The goal was to signal to the Democrats that voters were displeased with the incumbent administration's handling of the war in Gaza.

The campaign for uncommitted pulled 13.3% of the votes — a potentially serious threat to the

Democrats that if they don't change course on the Israel-Hamas war, they risk losing a significant chunk of their base and potentially losing the state of Michigan to the Republicans in the Electoral College.

If the uncommitted vote in the Democratic primary really is a warning sign — if Biden loses Michigan to Trump — if the movement spreads to other states and Biden loses in November, then marginalized Americans will have the pro-Palestinian progressives to blame.

The left eats its own, a saying that pertains strongly to the uncommitted movement.

The Democrats rely on the youth to win. It was the high turnout of young people that got Biden elected in 2020. The problem is that the youth are often petulant and immature. The voters who push for their Democratic counterparts to withhold their votes from Biden somehow lack both foresight and hindsight — too caught up on a single issue and bad electoral strategy to see what they are really accomplishing.

If they are serious, they are essentially opening the floodgates for Trump to saunter his way back into the White House.

Trump, the man who, in his first year of his presidency, enacted a ban on immigration from Muslim-majority countries. This is the man who seems to have no qualms about sexually assaulting women and haphazardly pins Mexican immigrants as rapists.

The uncommitted movement risks letting the man who, after losing his election, stoked his followers into breaking into the Capitol Building in Washington,

D.C., during a joint session of Congress based on a conspiracy theory that the Democrats had stolen the election from him.

If your solution to the injustices in Gaza at the hands of the Israeli Defense Force and Hamas are to give way to a candidate who is by all accounts worse for your community, then you need to rethink your electoral strategy.

Dissatisfaction with the current candidate is fine. Few people are excited to see another race between the 77-year-old Trump and the 81-year-old Biden, two of the oldest mainstream candidates to run for the White House. But the lead up to an election is not the time to start threatening the election of the candidate whose administration quite obviously has better intentions for the average American.

If you feel strongly enough that your best option for president is on the wrong path, then you need to get involved in politics between elections.

Join a canvassing organization to promote candidates who more closely align with your values. Knock on doors, call registered voters, make the case for the alternative before the primaries begin.

At least Biden is showing some support for humanitarian aid in Gaza. At least his administration has shown some sympathy to Gazans. At least Biden is willing to put some pressure on Israel to ease up on its assault. Trump would never.

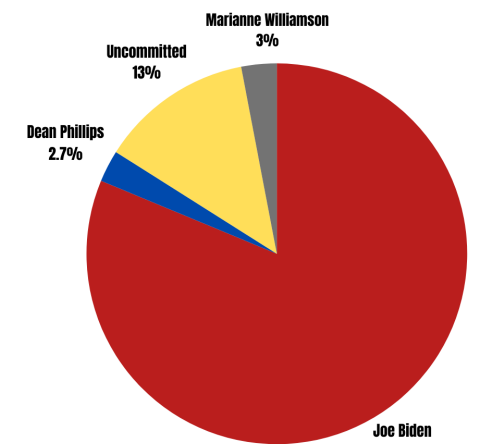
Trump would have no qualms about aligning himself fully with Israel's right wing government.

The National Security Minister of Israel

and leader of the far-right Jewish Power party, Itamar Ben-Gvir made his government's opinion of Trump clear in an early February interview with the *Wall Street Journal*.

"Instead of giving us his full backing, Biden is busy with giving humanitarian aid and fuel [to Gaza], which goes to Hamas," said. "If Trump was in power, the U.S. conduct would be completely different."

While perhaps well intentioned, the uncommitted campaign is short-sighted. If pro-Palestinian activists were truly committed to the safety and security of innocent Gazans, they'd swallow their pride and vote for the lesser of the two evils.



DATA COURTESY ASSOCIATED PRESS
Marianne Williamson has unsuspended her campaign after besting opponent Dean Phillips.

Cellist wins scholarship competition

ISABELLA ABBOTT
features editor

The odds seemed like they were stacked against junior cellist and music education major Carolina Roy. She had to play a live performance for 10 minutes from memory, without looking at her music. An \$8,000 scholarship was on the line, and she was picked to play last. But, for Roy, she treated it as an advantage that helped her win.

Roy won the Mary Pappert School of Music's 2024 Women's Advisory Board Scholarship Competition on Feb. 20. This award is given to one junior or senior student each year in the music school who maintains a GPA of 3.5 or higher and is nominated by the music school faculty to compete.

The six other students who competed this year included trumpet player Ty Lewis, pianist Zane Wooddell, bassoon player Walter Vinoski, vocalist Collin McCormick and clarinet player Kyle Chauvette.

On top of her spot as last player of the competition, Roy was the only strings player, and she was nervous.

"I was sitting there for about an hour watching everyone play," Roy said. "When someone tells you you're competing for \$8,000, you kind of get a little freaked out. It's one thing if it's just a performance, but when they wave the money in your face, I cannot say I was super confident."

For the competition, Roy picked a piece she played years before as a junior in high school, "Kol Nidrei" by Max Bruch. Knowing she played it for another important competition that she won four years ago, she decided to "try it again."

"I think it came down to just picking the right piece, I know my strengths lie in a more romantic style of music, feel-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NICHOLAS TODOROV

Carolina Roy has been playing the cello since she was in sixth grade. During the music school's scholarship competition, she performed a song she's performed four years prior.

ing the music and putting emotion into it rather than super technical passages," Roy said.

The emotion was there — Roy had a special bond with this piece and her late grandfather. She said they had planned to go see Kol Nidrei in a service at a synagogue before he was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer in December 2019. Her concert in February 2020 was one of the only things he said he wanted to see before he died. He made it to the concert but ended up in hospice a short time later, where she played for him there and later at his funeral service.

"He was actually one of my biggest supporters in my musical career and

even inspired me to play cello by getting me a tiny toy violin when I was a child," Roy said. "He always came to all of my concerts and showed so much interest in my music."

Her professor and Grammy Award-winning Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra cellist Adam Liu was the one who chose her to compete in the scholarship competition. He said she's "very passionate" when she is on stage.

"She's very accurate and plays with precision," Liu said. "As a strings player, if your finger is just slightly a hair toward the wrong way, the pitch suffers, that's why she's accurate, she truly holds her ground."

Liu also said she's a "warm and open person" and that she shows this while she plays.

"Oftentimes in our profession, you can tell the performer's personality from the stage, sometimes you don't even know them, but you listen to them play, and you sort of get a good educated guess on what they are like," Liu said. "Carolina, the way she's playing cello, I described her as a passionate and accurate player, and she's like that in life too."

Roy isn't the only cellist who has won the competition recently; another one of Liu's students, Alyssa Baljunas, won last year.

Roy's roommate and upright bass player, Anna Gartland, said she's "very orderly."

"She's very serious about her work but pretty artsy as well," Gartland said.

Though they haven't played together except for the Duquesne Symphony Orchestra, Gartland said she "likes to play as much as she can."

"She's probably one of the top strings players in the program, she's really good," Gartland said. "And she always gets glowing reviews every time she plays in front of people."

Those good reviews paid off, and she was announced as the winner shortly after she finished her piece. She said they caught her off guard when they announced her name minutes after she performed.

"I only played maybe 10 minutes before that, whereas everyone else had at least 20 minutes to calm down," Roy said.

Although students have to be nominated for the award and must have a 3.5 GPA, Roy said they were told to use a song that personally resonates with them.

"Pick a piece that you feel connected with," the judges said to me. What made it clear to them who they wanted to pick was the fact that I brought them on a journey with me with this piece," Roy said.



Carolina Roy, third from left is seen with fellow competitors and judges. She was the only women and the only strings player in the competition this year.



Carolina Roy played a song during the competition titled "Kol Nidrei" by Max Bruch. This specific piece connects her with her late grandfather who loved watching her perform.

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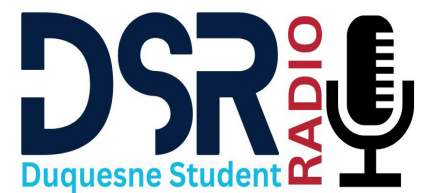
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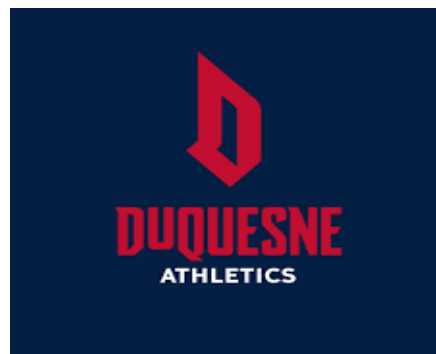
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Spring will officially be :Lexicon's 20th year of publication, so it will be an exciting and celebratory time for everyone involved!!!!

To apply for the position send your resume and cover letter to John Fried at friedj@duq.edu by Wednesday, March 20. If you have any questions about the position, please feel free to reach out to the current Editor-in-Chief, Jay Swarm at swarmj@gmail.com.

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