

Football holds Spring
scrimmage

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Heinz History Center
flips the script

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infrastructure needs to
change

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for a cause

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City holds vigil for death of bicyclist

MAXWELL MARCELLO

staff writer

BikePGH, held a vigil to honor James Mills.

The 67-year-old cyclist, was struck on March 26 and died five days later.

The local nonprofit met at the intersection of Liberty and Stanwix in Downtown Pittsburgh to talk about bicyclist safety and Mill's death.

Roughly two dozen cyclists gathered to pay respect to Mills and pressure the city to improve mobility.

Leading the vigil was Landy who eulogized Mills while also criticizing the lack of protections the city has for cyclists.

"Someone way back decided that this was a great place to dump traffic coming into the city all at once from several different major arteries into a densely populated urban area," Landy said.

For many Pittsburghers, biking offers a rewarding alternative to automobiles and public transit. However, cycling in an urban environment presents significant challenges for cyclists as the possibility of being struck by a vehicle is omnipresent.

Despite the danger, many Duquesne faculty and students regularly use bicycles as a means of transportation.

One such cyclist is Garnet Butchart, an associate professor of communication and rhetorical studies at Duquesne.

"Pittsburgh is not a cyclist-friendly city. There's not many dedicated bike lanes. So cyclists have to navigate... traffic. Its vehicles seem to have the right of way, and take it. So it can be treacherous," Butchart said.

In spite of the risks, Butchart remains a firm supporter of cycling and the city's efforts to improve cycling.

Improving pedestrian mobility was an issue that

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The space and science behind Monday's Solar Eclipse



BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Amie Gorrell and Luke Taylor watch the sky at Carnegie Science Center as the eclipse grew closer to its peak. They traveled an hour and a half from Hannibal, Ohio for their kids to experience the rare occurrence. They originally planned to visit the museum the day before, but it was closed. This prompted their decision to call off work and pull their kids out of school for the event.

KAITLYN HUGHES

staff writer

For Matt Bottegal, viewing the total solar eclipse in a public space was a no-brainer.

"It's so much more fun to experience things with other people," Bottegal said. "I want to see [my son's] experience, but it's interesting to see other people."

Bottegal brought his 12-year-old son, Ricky Bottegal, and father, Paul Bottegal, to the Carnegie Science Center for the one-in-a-lifetime occurrence.

Along with the family, about 1,000 people gathered on the museum's Riverview Terrace Monday afternoon to witness the rare event.

The phenomenon was a chance to connect with science and other people.

Heads tilted at the sky and a countdown began as the Solar

Eclipse reached its peak in Pittsburgh at 3:17 p.m.

Bottegal said this event was comparable to a firework show being able to hear everyone's 'Oohs' and 'Aahs' as they witnessed the eclipse.

Children cheered and pointed to the sky as the atmosphere darkened and grew cooler.

"It was cool to watch it move," said Myla Hoover.

Hoover's mom, Abbey Fickley, brought her and her friend, Willow Stegena, to experience the eclipse.

"It definitely made them excited," Fickley said. "As an adult or a mom, the experience of getting to show children this, that's all really cool. Introducing children to real life earthly things."

A solar eclipse occurs when the moon crosses between Earth and the sun, therefore casting a shadow onto specific parts of the globe.

The path of totality ran through Mexico, the United States and Canada, stretching from Texas to Maine. Cities including San Antonio, Indianapolis, Cleveland and Rochester, were under darkness during max totality.

Although Pittsburgh only witnessed a partial eclipse at 97%, it was the only time the U.S. will be in the path of totality until 2044.

Total eclipses occur every one to two years, according to director of theater experiences, Amanda Iwaniec.

"Earth is made mostly of water, so many times one of these total solar eclipses would happen over the sea or in different parts of the world," Iwaniec said. "A total eclipse could happen in the same area on an average of every 400 years."

Iwaniec explained that the next total solar eclipse will occur in Aug. 2027 and will be visible in Egypt.

According to Iwaniec, the eclipse was an asset to the overall goal of the Carnegie Science Center – to spark interest in learning.

"What's really fun about the Eclipse is we are able to do some tactile, hands-on science," Iwaniec said. "We will be able to take and pick apart each little bit of science and help kids and families and adults understand what is really happening and why this is so important."

Attendees were able to take part in a multitude of activities throughout the day including a solar eclipse programming, lessons on space chemistry and the Live NASA Feed.

Outside where the eclipse viewing occurred, children created masks and cases for their solar glasses, witnessed a demonstration of the eclipse and made spin art to represent nebula.

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Can students expect service to Penn Station?

ELIYAHU GASSON
opinions editor

Pittsburgh's Penn Station light rail stop hasn't seen regular use since 2007, but with development plans laid out, it's possible that regular service may return to this under-used station. Returning service to the station would provide Duquesne students and other residents of Allegheny County a rapid transit connection to the East End via the MLK Jr. East Busway as well as easier access to Pittsburgh's Amtrak and Greyhound stations.

Penn Station, opened in 1988, connects Steel Plaza to the Martin Luther King Jr. East Busway, a bus highway that takes riders from Downtown to Swissvale without having to deal with car traffic. Until 2007, PRT (then Port Authority of Allegheny County), operated a light rail shuttle service between the two stations.

The reason for ceasing the ser-

vice? Low ridership. The single track tunnel that connects the two stations, is remnant of the tunnel's days of service to the Pennsylvania Railroad. The single track, flanked on either side by support beams for the structures above, is not able to be expanded to two tracks, making it difficult to run quick service between Steel Plaza and Penn Station.

But Penn Station is back in action, at least temporarily.

Some students at Duquesne have expressed interest in the potential return of service to Penn Station.

"Just to be able to get places, if it connects everything, it's just an easier option, and I would definitely consider using it," said Jenna Stewart, a sophomore physician assistant major.

As a part of a \$150 million reconstruction and upgrade project to its light rail system, PRT temporarily closed Wood Street Station and the underground tunnel that connects it to both Gateway and Steel Plaza.

To deal with the closure, trains will reroute from Steel Plaza to Penn Station, where passengers coming from the South Hills can catch a shuttle bus to carry them to Gateway.

The detour will be in effect seven days a week until May 30, according to PRT's website. After May 30, work on the Downtown subway will continue on "some weekends through the summer."

This detour could give T riders an idea of some of the plans that PRT has made public about their system as a part of their NEXTransit proposal — specifically an Allentown/Downtown/Strip District line, operated as the Brown Line up until 2007, and a Downtown Transit Center.

Ioannis Maniatis, a freshman economics major at Duquesne, said he and other students would benefit from restored service to Penn Station, especially if they needed to use the East Busway.

"It would be helpful," Maniatis said. "Even for other students that need to go [to the East End] and don't have access, it would help."

In the meantime, the detour has caused added time and confusion for some PRT commuters, like Zay Chase, a freshman film student at Community College of Allegheny Campus.

Prior to starting his commute Chase wasn't aware of the detour in effect. He rode the train as far as possible and was confused when he had to get off at Penn Station and take a shuttle to Gateway.

"When it first happened, I didn't really know about it," Chase said. "When I was hopping on the trol-

ley Monday, I was rushing to get onto the T, so I didn't hear the announcement go off. I was just really confused."

According to Adam Brandolph, a spokesperson for PRT, the plan to reopen the Brown Line is still in the cards. As far as when riders can expect the return of the Brown Line or the construction of a Downtown Transit Center, Brandolph says it's too early to say.

"That project is still in our list of plans to advance," Brandolph told *The Duke* in an email. "Again, it's too early to say."

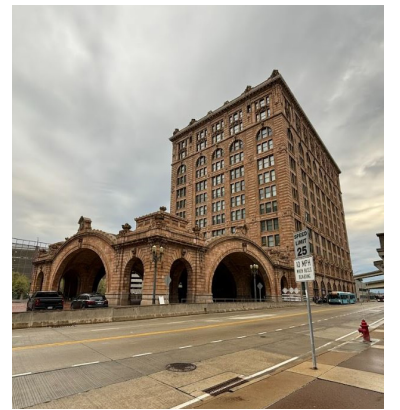
As of right now, PRT is not actively looking for public input on either project.

"We would [need] to get through \$150 million and five years of construction on the rail system before we are able to make significant changes to the rail system," Brandolph said when asked about PRT receiving public input on the projects.



ELLYAHU GASSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Passengers waited at Penn Station for the shuttle that will take them to Gateway.



ELLYAHU GASSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Penn Station would provide a convenient connection to the East Busway.

Community grieves at vigil over loss of bicyclist

from VIGIL — page 1

then-candidate Ed Gainey campaigned on. Now as Pittsburgh's mayor, Gainey announced the city's participation in an international effort to reduce cyclist fatalities.

Recent calls for improving Pittsburgh's mobility have intensified following Mills' death.

"I've been a cyclist in Pittsburgh for 12 years and I try to go to every one of these vigils because we lose a part of our community every time we lose

cycles often painted white and attached to a signpost to serve as a roadside memorial to a cyclist.

Starting in the 2000s, ghost bikes have taken on a new purpose, as a visual reminder to motorists and cyclists alike pushing for improved mobility on urban streets.

"While they [bus and semi trucks] had a green light, and I'm sure you all are tempted to think ... that James Mills made one of those gambles. One of those risky decisions. And it just didn't work out. And he passed away," Landy said. "And the city thought they could paint little white lines all along the street there and wash their hands of any responsibility beyond that. And that combination of decisions is ultimately what led to James's death."

However, among the grief was a sense of optimism that through the tragedy of Mills' death, the city would be spurred into action.

Vision Zero is a roadway strategy designed for equitable mobility and eliminating traffic fatalities, first developed in Sweden that has since been incorporated in American cities such as Chicago and Boston. Although calls for Pittsburgh to implement Vision Zero go back years, Seth Bush firmly believes that public pressure and the recent increase in cyclist deaths will compel the city to act faster.

"The idea behind initiatives like Vision Zero is great. I would

love to live in a city with zero bike or pedestrian traffic fatalities. With this white bike we dedicate today to James Mills, a member of our community, it will serve as a stark reminder to me and to every pedestrian cyclist and driver who passes here from now on," Landy said.

Mills' Ghost Bike was fixed at the intersection with Armin Samii donating his childhood bike lock to the memorial. Once the Ghost Bike's dedication concluded, the cyclists headed off on a ride through the city in Mills' honor.

Also in attendance at Wednesday's vigil was Bush, the advocacy manager for BikePGH.

Since the pandemic, collisions involving cyclists including fatalities have been increasing. The City of Pittsburgh sees one-third of such cases in the area. In spite of that, the city's plan to implement Vision Zero was praised by Bush.

"We need to be designing our streets to be able to work for those people to stay safe. We call those Complete Streets. When streets are just designed for cars. They're not complete streets, and we need motorists to know that you know, they are. It's not all about cars going fast. It needs to be about people being safe," Bush said.



REBECCA JOZWIAK | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Landy pointed to changes that need to be made for cyclist safety.

somebody on the streets," said cyclist John Kowalski. "We just need people to slow down, and just be more aware of what's around them."

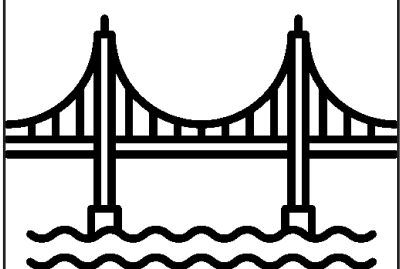
Central to the vigil was the dedication of a ghost bike in Mills' honor. Ghost bikes are bi-



REBECCA JOZWIAK | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Morgan Shaw, Armin Samii and Marylee Williams attended the vigil.

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Duq Best Buddies chapter surpasses \$5,000 fundraising goal at Friendship Walk

EMBER DUKE
staff writer

The Duquesne University chapter of Best Buddies, a nonprofit which works to end the stigma about intellectual and developmental disabilities, landed in the top five fundraising teams for the organization's annual Friendship Walk on April 7.

On Sunday morning, hundreds of people joined together at Highmark Stadium for the Friendship Walk, keynote addresses and games before the walk.

Best Buddies is a national volunteer based nonprofit offering one-to-one friendships, employment and living opportunities and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Many local high schools and colleges have chapters which are under the umbrella of the larger organization. This year's Duquesne chapter raised \$5,023 of their \$5,000 fundraising goal for the Friendship walk as of Monday.

Delaney Nichols, Best Buddies Duquesne chapter vice president, said the walk is a celebration of the work the different chapters and individuals do throughout the year.

"So every school can nominate people in buddy pairs that they thought did a good job or spent a lot of time together or were just creating a really inclusive environment in the club itself," Nichols said. "Then they get honored at the event if they're chosen by Best Buddies Pittsburgh."

The university has a program with St. Anthony's School to partner students with intellectual and developmental disabilities

with Duquesne students. One student, Anita Iyengar, was the top fundraiser for the Duquesne chapter, who raised \$1,785 and landed as the sixth top fundraiser in the Pittsburgh area. She did a lot of her fundraising by sharing information and donation links to people she knows.

"Some friends and family from out of town donated to best buddies," Iyengar said.

The chapter's year-round fundraising goes toward their on-campus events, such as concerts, arts and crafts and a talent show. Separate fundraising for the annual Friendship Walk goes directly to Best Buddies Pennsylvania to help fund larger organized events, which bring together the separate chapters.

The Duquesne club has over 100 involved members. By pairing students in "Buddy Pairs," the organization hopes to create a fun learning environment.

"Duquesne actually has the St. Anthony's school within Duquesne, so it's a program for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to learn life skills on a college campus," Meghan MacGregor said. "The whole point of Best Buddies is to promote inclusion and one on one friendships."

Iyengar has been involved with Best Buddies since 2016 and has enjoyed many of the events the Duquesne chapter has organized.

"I like doing the dances, the games [and] the crafting," Iyengar said.

One of the club's upcoming events is the Spread the Word concert on Thursday. Nichols, said it's the organizations big on campus event for the year and they invite many Duquesne music groups to perform.

"It's just basically like, an inclusion

concert is kind of how we refer to it," Nichols said.

While the event is centered around music they also have raffle prizes, refreshments and speeches from people in the organization.

"So I think we'll have four groups total performing," Nichols said. "The buddies will give speeches. So they just talked about their experience and what inclusion means to them. And usually, they go up with their like, buddy pair, and they do it together to show a united front and how our friendships are representative of inclusion and how we're trying to promote it throughout the community."

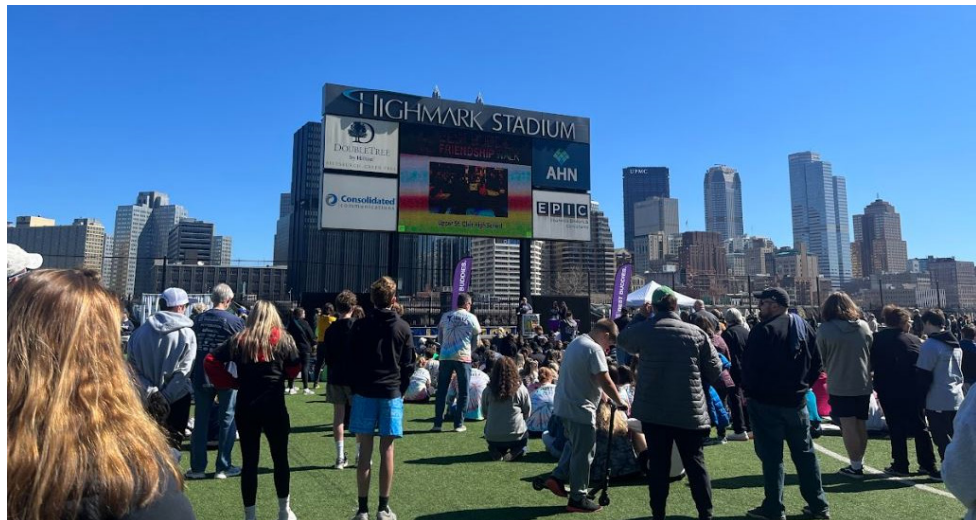
For MacGregor, the atmosphere of the chapter feels like spending time with friends, and she looks forward to the fun

she has at each event, especially when many end in dance parties, she said.

"You're genuinely just taking two hours out of your day to go hang out with your friends," she said. "My best buddy is genuinely my best friend."

In the years she's been involved, MacGregor has gotten family and friends involved in Best Buddies as well. It's easy for her to advocate for the club because she sees how important it is to everyone involved, she said.

"You genuinely see the impact that it has on people's lives," MacGregor said. "Because it's like, it's a place where not only do they get to hang out with each other and they also get to hang out with people who are at least supposed to be their peers."



EMBER DUKE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Duquesne's Best Buddies chapter raised \$5,203 and surpassed their fundraising goal.

Science center hosts the solar eclipse

from SOLAR — page 1

Planetarium presenter Nate Kroboth showed attendees the different equipment that can be used to view the eclipse.

The first was a SunSpotter. "[The sun] goes through different lenses and mirrors, so if you don't have solar glasses you can point this lens at the solar eclipse," Kroboth said. "The sunlight



BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Willow Stegena and Myla Hoover witnessed the moon cover 97% of the sun.

will bounce through the lens and also ve-neers and a projected image will show up on this piece of paper right here. As the Moon passes in front of the Sun, you will see the projection of the solar eclipse on the piece of paper."

Kroboth demonstrated how a normal telescope can become solar eclipse-safe by using a funnel and solar filter in place of the eyepiece. A projected image of the eclipse appears on the funnel for viewers to "watch it like we're watching a movie."

Bottegal recognized the importance of finding lighthearted ways to incorporate science into children's lives.

"We need to guide kids into the things that they need to learn, and if we make it fun, make science fun, then people are interested in it," Bottegal said. "Then more developments happen."

Bottegal's father, Paul, agreed with him, saying there is one question everyone asks themselves, "How the heck does that thing work?"

This question is why having opportunities for children surrounding scientific events is important to Bottegal. He said invoking this question within kids helps them to better understand their environment and be successful in future endeavors.

"That's a question that should really be on the front of your mind at all times," Bottegal said.

While people at the Science Center were viewing the eclipse, members of Duquesne's community also enjoyed the scientific phenomenon.

Associate professor of physics Simonetta Frittelli brought 200 glasses to campus which allowed students, faculty and staff



BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Giuliana Nicholas and Hannah Nicholas said the scientific phenomenon was unmatched.

to participate in the eclipse.

Frittelli said viewing an eclipse was transformative for the students on campus. It helped people remember that there is a world out there that humans have no control over.

"Seeing the sun missing a piece was impactful for them," Frittelli said. "To experience an eclipse is something you don't forget."

Since the next eclipse in the United States is not for another 20 years, many are wondering what to do with their solar glasses.

According to the *Oklahoman*, two orga-

nizations will be collecting the glasses for donation.

Astronomers Without Borders will send the contributions to underserved communities. Warby Parker locations will be collecting the glasses.

Eclipse Glasses USA will send their donations to students in Latin America so they can participate in the annular eclipse that will occur. The glasses can be sent to: Eclipse Glasses USA, LLC, PO BOX 50571, Provo, UT 84605.

To be donated the glasses must be undamaged without tears or scratches.

Football wraps up spring with scrimmage

REBECCA JOZWIAK
staff writer

The Duquesne football team concluded their spring season Saturday in a condensed team scrimmage at Rooney Field. Teams were named after staff on the team, Director of Operations Luke Smith and Special Teams Coordinator Mickey Jacobs. Team Jacobs defeated Team Smith in two quarters.

Jerry Schmitt holds the reins for the Dukes, returning for his 19th season as the

to the NCAA Football Championship Sub-division playoffs. Their most recent appearance came last season, where they lost to Youngstown State University 40-7.

Duquesne defeated Merrimack in the final week of the regular season to clinch the NEC Championship 26-14. On Friday, the players on the 2023 roster had the opportunity to receive their championship rings.

"It was great seeing the players get their rings, their recognition," Schmitt said. "It was a great evening. All the parents and fans couldn't make it up to Merrimack for the game because of the travel. It was an

ern Illinois University over winter break after a breakout rookie season.

Robinson's shoes are a big fill – the freshman netted the NEC Rookie of the Week honor on three separate occasions, and was named to the All-NEC Second Team, while scoring a touchdown each in playoff games against YSU.

Although the Dukes are without Robinson, there are plenty of returners to on the team. The most notable return for the Dukes is quarterback Darius Perrantes. The senior earned First Team All-NEC honors, and was a finalist for the Walter Payton Award, which honors the best offensive player in the FCS. The quarterback also led the NEC in passing touchdowns.

Perrantes, one of the three quarterbacks to play for Team Smith, led the team with 83 passing yards.

Scoring kicked off around the five-minute mark of the game, where Team Smith scored on a 1-yard rush by running back Taj Butts. Butts, a redshirt junior, earned the NEC Offensive Player of the Week Award last season after his performance against Central Connecticut State, where he had 118 rushing yards.

At the end of the first quarter, Team Jacobs was able to put themselves on the board, thanks to quarterback Xavier Rice connecting with wide receiver Alex Gochis on a 12-yard touchdown pass. It was a day for reserves on the roster to shine.

"It's really good. We've got guys volunteering, knowing that they're going to step up. It's not hard to have been encouraged by our staff. There's guys stepping into those roles," Schmitt said. "We can see it, and they're participating in meetings and things that can help them develop their leadership."

Team Jacobs took a 14-7 lead in the sec-

ond quarter after Antonio Pitts rushed for 32 yards into the end zone.

Wide receiver Tedy Afful won the game for Team Jacobs after catching an 8-yard pass from Perrantes to pull his team behind Team Smith by one. Perrantes connected with senior wide receiver Tyler Padezan for the 2-point conversion, giving Team Jacobs a 15-14 lead with less than a minute left in the game.

"Spring ball is basically step one going into the season," Afful said. "Guys were playing hard, competing – basically bonding. I feel like we're right where we need to be."

Duquesne finds another returning player in Afful. Afful, a transfer from Stony Brook, contributed to the Dukes success last season. The rising senior started in all 12 games, and was third on the team with 455 receiving yards. Afful also enjoyed a 135 yard game against Central Connecticut State – which was the most receiving yards by a receiver in the NEC.

"We were just having fun, and we were just competing," Afful grinned. "[Team Jacobs] just wanted to have fun and go for the 2-point conversion just so we could win the game and there wouldn't be a tie."

The main point of the spring season for the team was to have fun and foster a team environment for the upcoming regular season.

"When you're working together here for 15 practices and meetings, and you're working at an intense level – that allows us to develop cohesion within individual groups, the units and then within the team," Schmitt said. "It's a different team than last year – a lot of the same guys, but a different makeup and a different team."

The Dukes will kick off their fall season on Thursday, Aug. 29, away against the Toledo Rockets.



BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Sophomore Alex Gochis rises to reel in a two-handed snag for a touchdown on Saturday afternoon.

head coach. Schmitt looks to build upon his five Northeast Conference championships, with his most recent title coming last season.

In addition to those achievements, Schmitt also guided the Dukes to two trips

opportunity for us as a group to celebrate."

While Schmitt returns back to the Bluff for another year as head coach, the team has lost a handful of pivotal players over the offseason, such as freshman running back Edward Robinson. He transferred to South-

Weiss grades the Steelers offseason

AIDAN WEISS
Staff Writer

The Steelers went into the offseason needing changes. General Manager Omar Khan delivered. Here are the grades for the key moves.

Hiring Offensive Coordinator Arthur Smith: B

I don't know what to make of this move. On the one hand, Smith comes to Pittsburgh after being fired from Atlanta's head coaching position where he led an embarrassingly poor offense. Most frighteningly, he wasted the talents of Kyle Pitts and Bijan Robinson, a similar criticism levied on Matt Canada last season. On the other hand, he made Ryan Tannehill look good in his last offensive coordinator stint in Tennessee, which deserves some type of award. The B is a placeholder grade, but nobody will know until the offense either performs or flops.

Signing quarterback Russell Wilson: A-

Steelers Country, let's weld. Don't get it twisted, Russell Wilson was horrible in Denver. However, the Steelers are hoping for a bounce back from the former Pro-Bowler and Super Bowl Champion. The \$1.2 million contract makes it a low-risk investment. If it doesn't work out, they got a fun new backup

to replace him anyway.

Trading for quarterback Justin Fields: B+

The oft-rumored acquisition of the 2021 first-round pick became reality as the Steelers only gave up a 2025 sixth for him. Personally, I am not a fan of Fields; he's fast and that's about it. The flashes throwing the ball are too few and far between for a now fourth-year quarterback. However, the cheap price makes this a win regardless of what he does.

Trading Quarterback Kenny Pickett: A

Pickett showed off his elite competitive nature by throwing a hissy fit when the Steelers brought in Wilson. Apparently, he thought his elite rate of six touchdowns in 12 games last season was enough to make him an unchallenged starter next season. He was shipped off to be the unchallenging backup to Jalen Hurts in Philadelphia. The Steelers also moved a pick from the fourth to the third round in this year's draft and got back two sevenths next season. Fantastic move by the Khan Artist.

Signing Linebacker Patrick Queen: A+

Anything that hurts the Ravens is fantastic. Queen comes from Baltimore after a second-team All-Pro season and locks down the linebacker spot alongside Cole Holcomb and Elandon Roberts. Queen is locked down

for the next three and wreaks havoc on opponents.

Trading Wide Receiver Diontae Johnson for Cornerback Donte Jackson: C

The biggest disappointment in an otherwise stellar spring. Johnson's attitude had been called into question, but only getting Jackson in danger of getting cut by league-worst Carolina – and a sixth-round pick was not a great return. The lack of a corresponding receiver move suggests that we will see a receiver selected in the first three rounds of the draft.

Signing Safety DeShon Elliott: B+

Elliott comes from Miami after earlier stints in Detroit and Baltimore. After the release of Keanu Neal, more depth was needed. Elliott will likely slot in at strong safety, and his play will be crucial in ensuring that Minkah Fitzpatrick can go back to free safety and fulfill the lurker role that he is best at.

Re-signing Miles Killebrew: A-

In a move that did not register much attention, the Steelers brought back their star special teamer in Killebrew. Since he signed in Pittsburgh in 2021, Killebrew has blocked three punts. That would rank fourth among all NFL teams overall. An underrated move but a necessary one for the Steelers special teams unit.

Punter Cameron Johnston: B+

He's not Pressley Harvin. That's all it takes to improve from Harvin's mediocre Steelers' run. An all-around acquisition for the Khan Artist.

Re-signing Long Snapper Christian Kuntz: A+

An absolutely incredible signing. Getting a Duquesne legend for \$1.2 million a year for three years provides stability for the franchise and the hometown kid. Also, guess who had more sacks in college, Kuntz or T.J. Watt? Only a real football fan would know that Kuntz had 30.5 to Watt's 11.5.



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Lacrosse drops fourth straight to UMass

BRENTARO YAMANE
multimedia editor

At this time last year, Delaney Rodriguez-Shaw was the star scorer for the Duquesne Women's Lacrosse Team. In her two seasons with the Dukes, she was nothing but productive, scoring 94 goals and recording 26 assists during her time on the Bluff.

Fast forward to this past Saturday, and Rodriguez-Shaw saw herself once again on Arthur J. Rooney Field, but this time wearing a University of Massachusetts lacrosse jersey.

women winning-streak to six games. Despite seeing some of her former teammates on the field, that did not bother her at all in helping the Minutewomen continue to thrive.

"My main goal was just really focus on the game, not about my opponents. They have been my friends for a couple of years," Rodriguez-Shaw said. "But between the lines, it's a game, and there's only one final outcome. So I was really just focusing on making sure that in the full 60 minutes that I was focused."

The Minutewomen scored the first four goals of the game. However, Tristen Chang

ing on the details that we can and what we can control. So, it was really selfless play, playing as a full team, and really priding ourselves as being a strong family and strong relationships on both ends of the field," Minutewomen head coach Jana Drummond said. "So finding that playing selfless, really finding that one more on that path option down on the offensive end, which I thought they did a really great job of today.

The Dukes only trailed 5-1 at the end of the first quarter, but the Minutewomen exploded in the second quarter outscoring the Dukes 8-1 and giving them an 11-goal lead at halftime. With the loss, the Dukes dropped their fourth consecutive game.

"UMass is a good team. We knew we were up against a lion. And I love the energy and intensity these girls showed," Dukes Head Coach Corinne Desrosiers said. "We can pull some of the fixable things like some decisions that we made."

The Minutewomen showed that Desrosiers praise was warranted. The biggest reason they had so many scoring opportunities is defender Jordan Dean winning the draw controls. Entering Saturday's game, Dean led the NCAA Division I level in draw controls at 12.9 and she recorded 14 on the day.

"But if we're looking at the breakdown, I mean, we split ground balls. They got us on draws, but they have an elite draw controller [Dean]. And we did look to mess her up a lot. Jordan didn't win a ton of them to herself. They kind of came out of the circle and we made it a fight," Desrosiers said.

The Minutewomen were led by Charlotte

Wilmoth, who scored seven goals and recorded a team-high 10 points, which were both season highs for her. Twelve different players recorded a point for UMass.

"[Wilmoth] was versatile, she can be anywhere on the field and feeding but she can also be anywhere inside the 8 [meter-arc] off-ball, slip-cutting and just really being dynamic in that sense," Drummond said. "So I'm just proud of her mentality of focusing on play-by-play and not getting too far ahead. I bet if you asked her how many points she had, she probably would have no idea what her stats were because she is just team oriented."

The Dukes leading scorers Mackenzie Leszczynski and Corinne Webb both scored late in the fourth quarter, when the game was already set in stone. Leszczynski extended her consecutive goal streak to 12.

The Minutewomen and the Richmond Spiders are the only two teams in the Atlantic-10 that are undefeated in conference play. The conference tournament will be held May 2-5 at Rooney Field and the Minutewomen can see themselves back on campus in less than a month.

"During this winning-streak, we have been doing a very good job of keeping our heads up in the sense especially throughout transitional defense and just looking always for one more stop," Rodriguez-Shaw said. "And also just keeping the high intensity throughout the sideline throughout the field on a big play, I think all that comes together just to help us be a team that we can score 20 goals on other teams, and just having all the little things coming together.



CHRISTIAN DIAKELER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Tristen Chang scored twice, setting career highs in goals, shots and shots on goal in Duquesne's 20-7 loss versus UMass on Saturday afternoon on Rooney Field.

In Rodriguez-Shaw's return to Pittsburgh, she made an impact scoring two goals in the first half of a 20-7 win over the Dukes, which helped extend the Minute-

scored the first goal of the game for the Dukes with 4:32 left in the first quarter. Chang recorded two goals on the afternoon. "Our game plan was more of just focus-

Packing for the portal

As of today, the following Dukes have entered the NCAA Transfer Portal:

Women:

Guard Tess Myers:

The most impactful departure in either program publicized her decision on Wednesday night. Myers, a Pittsburgh native, started 93 games for the Dukes over four seasons. She earned a reputation as a sharpshooter and is tied for the most 3-pointers in program history, with 279. She will get her next one spending her final season of eligibility somewhere else. She saw a dip in most statistical categories this year, but still finished with 74 3-pointers, second only to...

Guard Naelle Bernard:

The Parisian averaged 9 points per game in two seasons with Duquesne. She only played in 13 games this season due to injury, but started 12 in a backcourt that is suddenly going to look much different this year.

Men:

Guard Kailon Nicholls:

After playing sparingly in his freshman season, Nicholls departing isn't much of a surprise. He's remarkably twitchy and athletic, but his 6-foot frame limits his usefulness in a lineup that has two small guards playing ahead of him. Any backcourt players that will step up next year ought to have more height to balance things out.

Forward Andy Barba:

While averaging three minutes per game over three seasons, Barba made his impact as one of four returning players who revived the program after the 2021-22 season, and prior to his announcement, was the longest tenured player on the roster.

Bowling topples out of regional final

The Duquesne bowling team competed in the Pittsburgh Regional of the NCAA Tournament this past weekend. The Dukes' 68-32 season record was good for a nationwide No. 9 ranking and an auto-bid into the NCAA bracket, their third appearance in the last four years.

Duquesne survived the first day of the regional with a win over No. 15 Maryland-Eastern Shore before a loss to No. 1 Jacksonville State prompted an elimination rematch with UMES the next morning. The Dukes once again defeated the Hawks to set up a final with JSU, but the top-ranked Gamecocks ran away with the match to end Duquesne's season in the national quarterfinals.

Coming off their first-ever outright Northeast Conference championship, the Dukes were conveniently placed in the Pittsburgh Regional section of the tournament, which took place at AMF Mt. Lebanon Lanes just eight miles away from campus. Their first match in the double-elimination tournament was against UMES, where despite nine combined strikes from Morgan Brookover and Shannon Small the Dukes lost the traditional match to go down 1-0 before responding in baker play and the best-of-seven to win the series, 2-1. Duquesne won the baker play match against Jacksonville State that afternoon, but lost the two other matches to land them in the consolation game.

Panic set in for the Dukes Sunday morning when they once again dropped the traditional match to UMES, but a four-strike effort in the deciding fifth game of baker play kept Duquesne alive heading into the best-of-seven, where they overcame a 3-0 deficit to knock out UMES and take on Jacksonville State in the final. For the fourth straight game, Duquesne lost the traditional match before winning in baker play, but their season ended in the best-of-seven where they lost in the fifth game.

Heinz History Center honors women of Pa.

EMILY FRITZ
a&e editor

What comes to mind when you think of “a woman’s place?” Is it the punchline of a joke about making sandwiches? Perhaps you think about the centuries worth of homemaking and child rearing that captures the dated day-to-day life of women in the 1800s. The Heinz History Center is “flipping the script” as they showcase stories of women in multiple facets of life, coexisting with the archaic cult of domesticity.

“A Woman’s Place: How Women Shaped Pittsburgh” is a new exhibit that presents us with the dynamic histories of women from Western Pennsylvania who have shaped the Steel City, the country and the world through their actions and advocacy.

Appropriately dubbed “the people’s museum,” the history center is well-known for its showcase of regional stories and historical people, but the temporary exhibit became available for patrons to enjoy on March 23.

“From pioneering investigative journalism to leading their country to Olympic gold, Western Pennsylvania women have made an immeasurable impact in America, but too often, their stories have been overlooked,” read a news release from the museum.

Lined up at the entrance was a period wedding dress, judicial robes and a combat uniform alongside an auto mechanic’s work shirt, a 1965 Tri-Boro All Stars softball uniform, a Harley-Davidson motorcycle jacket and a pink tutu dance costume.

The exhibit contains more than 250 artifacts, including immersive and interactive elements, archive images, clothing and textile pieces and sketches in addition to the posters and buttons of women’s suffrage.

“I think it does a good job of encouraging people to think about all the different ways that someone can make an impact beyond those traditional old history definitions of industry and battle and capital and things like that,” said senior curator Leslie Przybylek.

Despite their extensive collection, Przybylek explained that while local efforts can hold some of the biggest impacts to cultural history, finding artifacts that reflected more private



EMILY FRITZ | A&E EDITOR

Textiles in the Heinz History Center’s new exhibit, “A Woman’s Place,” reflected the many facets of women’s history, telling the stories of women who have impacted the local community and the national scene.

and personal stories was difficult.

Przybylek said that students from Duquesne University’s public history class were involved in the brainstorming of the collection, conducting interviews with local women and contributing oral histories in the video component near the end of the exhibit.

“[Dr. Jennifer Taylor was] the one who originally connected with us. We did a focus group conversation with some students, and there was a group from a class that also came here early on and visited the history center,” Przybylek said.

To help patrons immerse themselves in the histories, interactive components were available for hands-on education. While the ‘go bag’ of renowned journalist Nellie Bly was temporarily unavailable, attendees could pack their own using a creative puzzle game.

Pop culture pieces, including the iconic ‘Rosie the Riveter’ poster and its many adaptations, were on display as well, showcasing the stories of real Western Pennsylvanian women who worked the mills during World War II.

Peppered with questions that inspired deeper contemplation, Przybylek emphasized the idea that progress isn’t linear and people – including historical figures – should be

viewed with a holistic lens.

“As we see today in the world around us, you can find a figure who has positive aspects to them and negative aspects to them,” Przybylek said. “There’s a range of ways that they interacted with those around them. And I think we’re really hoping that people take a little bit more of that engaged, critical eye into the project.”

Similarly, “A Woman’s Place” dispels the idea of a historical vacuum. Intersectionality was a large component in the history center’s discussion of women’s history with civil rights and disability advocacy. Conversely, advocacy for women’s rights did not always encompass every minority group.

“At times, it created some uncomfortable bedfellows and other times it created a really powerful bloc of people who were successful in working together,” Przybylek said.

Security employee Dawn Little said that she has seen an increase in foot traffic during her daily patrols since the exhibit’s opening.

“I think the whole thing is important just because it shows how women evolved from years ago until now,” Little said. “It’s amazing what they contributed to the society of the whole state of Pennsylvania and the world. It’s very interesting what we’ve

done and where we’ve come from.”

At the end of the walkthrough, people could submit a card nominating a girl or woman that has made history, impacted the world or personally impacted the nominator’s life. Submissions included local business owners, women elects, educators, mentors and of course, mothers.

From the pool, the Heinz History Center will consider individuals for the title of “History Maker,” or those who “profoundly contribute to the innovative history and collective heritage of our region and represent a commitment to excellence that has defined our community,” according to their website.

The exhibit will continue until Oct. 6, bringing unique learning opportunities to patrons in the coming weeks, including “Women’s Journey in Journalism with Brooke Kroger” on May 5, “Leading by Example: Women’s Leadership in Law” on May 23 and “Keystone Stories: Uncovering the Legacies of Pennsylvania Women” on June 30.

General admission for the Heinz History Center can be purchased for \$20 or \$11 with a valid student ID.

“We see this exhibit as part of an ongoing conversation,” Przybylek said. “Think about other women and other stories in the community ... reach out and let us know.”

CAMPUS EVENTS

Lemonade Stand
April 12 @ 11 a.m.

At \$1/cup, help Sigma Gamma Rho fundraise for March of Dimes in the Union.

FULL SPECTRUM
April 13 @ 10 a.m.

The music school is connecting families and individuals with autism through the power of music.

Moonball
April 13 @ 12 p.m.

Enjoy this 3v3 basketball tournament with Gamma Phi Beta in the Power Center. Cost is \$30/team.

Earth Week: DIY Trail Mix
April 15 @ 11 a.m.

Stop by Evergreen’s table in the Union Atrium for a snack and a magnet giveaway.

Bingsu Bar Night
April 15 @ 9 p.m.

The Asian Student Association will be in the NiteSpot enjoying bingsu — a Korean dessert filled with various delicious toppings!

EMILY'S EPIPHANIES

Progress is Seldom Linear

In our pursuit of betterment, we often fall into the idea that we must continue in an unbroken line toward our goals when in reality, we are susceptible to a challenging journey filled with obstacles, detours and routine character development.

Falling back in the path to greatness can be discouraging and cause us to question our purpose but perseverance and commitment is what keeps us from truly regressing.

We must pick ourselves back up, try new things and find what works.

Being inspired by others is a powerful and moving thing, but coveting their fortune to the extent of mimicry can cause our detriment.

There is value in real-life exposure, the twisting path of discovery and the self reflection that comes with messing up.

Find flexibility in the face of adversity and grace in mistakes.

— Emily Fritz

Aquarius ♒

Orca-nized crime.

Pisces ♓

Fake fan, real hater.

Aries ♈

No, Don.
I will not be nicer. <3

Taurus ♉

Going from academic weapon to academic apex predator.

Gemini ♊

C'mon this is so easy my dead grandma could do it.

Cancer ♋

I'd let that page date my daughter.

Leo ♌

I just gave the woman with a pace maker a reason to have one.

Virgo ♍

Couldn't pick a bar of soap to save their sudsy soul.

Libra ♎

Not a single Star War???

Scorpio ♏

Timothée Chalamet looks nothing like Bob Dylan (or Bob Marley.)

Sagittarius ♐

Bag of bones that are jumbling around in a giant burlap sack.

Capricorn ♑

My flabbers have been gasted.

Pittsburgh Public Theater revives classic on stage

HANNAH PETERS
staff writer

For many, “The Importance of Being Earnest” by Oscar Wilde is a dated piece of theatrical work that you may only hear of in passing. Director Jenny Koons has taken steps to change that.

Pittsburgh received its first glimpse of this on March 27, when the first preview of this production hit the stage at the Downtown O’Reilly Theater. A product of the Pittsburgh Public Theater (PPT) and the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, this play is directed and adapted by Koons and will run until April 14.

First performed in 1895 London, the story is set in Victorian era England against the backdrop of two contrasting environments: the city of London – referred to as the ‘town’ – and the ‘country,’ or Hertfordshire, the rural countryside not far from England’s capital.

Similarly, the play follows John Worthing who leads two lives, one in town where he is known as “Earnest” and the other in the country where he is called “John.” His intention is to marry Gwendolyn from town, daughter of Lady Bracknell and cousin of friend Algernon, and through these interactions and his opposing identities, the story unfolds.

Described as “a satirical masterpiece of wit and wisdom” by the PPT website, this play uses humor to touch on themes of society, etiquette, identity, desire and love. Using a combination of local Pittsburgh and visiting talent, this performance features a small seven-member cast.

energy to the story, Smith’s portrayal of Lady Bracknell captivated audience members, especially the likes of regular theatergoer Rae Groy.

“I really liked the character of the mother. All the actors did a good job, but that person was particularly powerful,” Groy said.

Smith explained that part of the



COURTESY OF PITTSBURGH PUBLIC THEATER

(Left to right) Alex Manalo, David Ryan Smith, Veronica del Cerro and Dylan Marquis Meyers used American accents in the production to better connect with audiences.

David Ryan Smith, actor and NYU professor, plays the commanding and ruthless-but-proper character of Lady Bracknell. Smith was thought of specifically for the role by Koons, who had worked with him in previous productions.

Bringing a particularly forceful

process in adapting this production involved trimming the play of some outdated references so that they could uphold the spine of the story.

“Jenny did a great job of not really changing words, but cutting some. There’s a lot of really contemporary 1895 English references that

a modern audience I think would struggle with – and she wanted to really make a version of the play that was just accessible to a contemporary audience,” Smith said.

One of these changes was the choice for the actors to not use accents, something that typically is done for this play.

Local actress Alex Manolo portrayed Cecily, Worthing’s young ward who resides in his country home. She said that language and the way in which it is spoken in a play has a major impact on the audience’s experience, so foregoing original dialects was helpful to the adaptation.

“After you see the show, no one’s like, ‘I wish you did those dialects,’ because she took out a lot of the references to London,” Manolo said. “There’s so many themes and things that people can relate to that if you pinpoint it to – this is a play that takes place in Europe – sometimes that’s where people feel like this is above us.”

Manolo explained that Koons’ process in adapting this play also involved a lot of collaboration. Koons hosted open rehearsals before the opening of the show so that students and the general public could give feedback on the performance.

“She’s really big into collaborating. Her thing is we shouldn’t be

gatekeeping the rehearsal process,” Manolo said. “Hearing outside voices and getting other people inside the rehearsal space over those three weeks was really cool and different to me.”

Koons also recruited another colleague, Emmy award-winner Jason Adrizzone-West, to be the scenic designer for this production. Previously working on sets for artists such as Beyonce, Adele, The Weeknd and Lana Del Ray, Adrizzone-West said that Koons was a major reason he got involved with this production.

“I just really love the way she approaches theater [with] a fresh perspective [and by] questioning the kind of expectations and norms of traditional Western theater,” said Adrizzone-West.

Adding other elements to the performance, like short interludes featuring readings from real etiquette books from the Victorian era, Koons adapted a century old story into something grounded, humorous and engaging.

“It feels amazing to come back to a comedy, especially at a time when there are so many serious issues that we are all grappling with,” Koons said in a news release. “Despite how our senses of humor have changed culturally, this humor from the 1800s is still so funny, even now.”

Annual Art Show kicks off Sexual Assault Awareness Month

SENIA DUGANHODZIC
staff writer

In observance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Students Against Sexual Violence (SASV) hosted their annual art show in the Africa Room during the evening of April 9.

SASV president Madison Walker explained the importance of community and campus support. By holding an art show, students and survivors can submit pieces, gain camaraderie and create community, which reflects the ongoing mission of SASV.

“To make such a positive event

out of something that was so challenging, is so important to support. To have so many people here makes me smile,” Walker said.

Because the event accepted diverse mediums of work, submissions were able to better reflect individual and personal experiences.

“I’ve really loved poetry all my life. I do it spontaneously if something comes to me, I’ll write it down. It’s the best way for me to express myself,” senior Acacia Puleo said.

Puleo showcased her poetry at the event, some reflecting fictitious materials and some revealing her personal journey. Two of

her creative works reflected toxic relationships and explored unhealthy boundaries.

“The other pieces I wrote were based on my own life experience. I’ve experienced a lot of harassment in my life,” Puleo said. “[These poems are] an expression of myself and what I’ve been through.”

Art is often regarded as a positive outlet for stress and can be therapeutic for many. Through music, art and dance, survivors can find ways to cope and process what they’ve experienced.

“The hopes for this show is to raise awareness of the actual

lived experiences of students on our campus regarding instances of sexual violence, and also issues with relationships in general,” said SASV founder Rebecca Ulinski.

Ulinski explained the three pillars of the organization, which are activism, advocacy and awareness. The event provided a safe and calm environment to reflect, process, express and heal.

Having submitted her own art, Ulinski explained how the medium she chose better reflected her interpersonal experiences.

“Collages have been an effective way for me to document my life. I’m always saving little scraps of paper, magazine pieces and ticket stubs. I like to collect little pieces of my life and smash them all together. They really focus a lot on relationships with others and myself,” Ulinski said.

Through the presentation of art, the club was able to create meaningful awareness while simultaneously offering a space to self-advocate or advocate for others.

“This art show means unity to me. It means love. It means community. People are showing that they are standing with you. They’re not turning a blind eye, like the world sometimes does,” Puleo said.

Sadly, many survivors don’t

feel comfortable going to the Title IX Office.

“They don’t want others to know that this is happening to them because it makes them feel weak,” said SASV secretary Aly Chomenko, “but in actuality it can be viewed as a strength.”

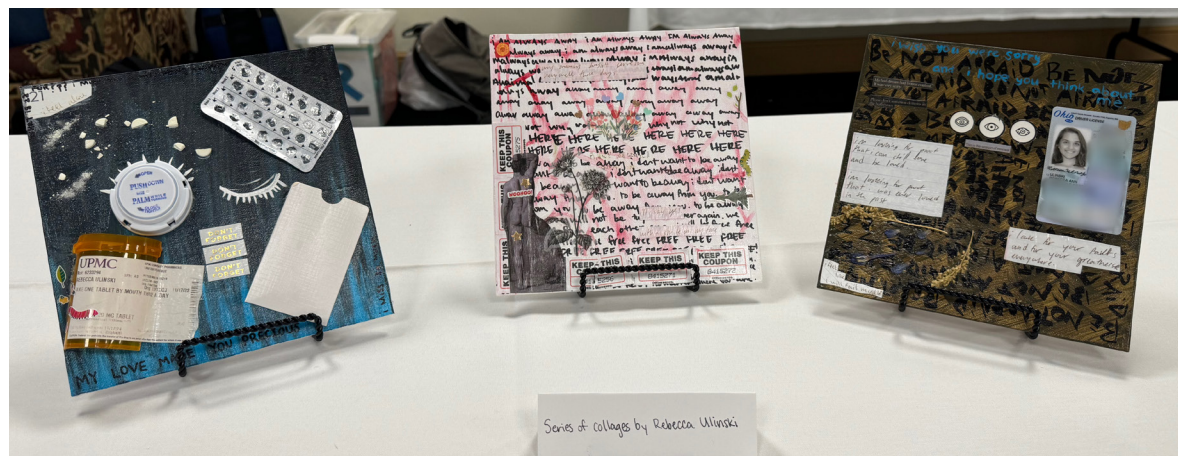
“Sexual assault is very prevalent even though its kept very hush hush,” Chomenko said.

As the month continues, the Title IX Office will also host events pertaining to sexual assault, dating violence and healthy relationships. On April 11, the annual “Cover the Cruiser” event will return, where students cover a Duquesne University Campus Police car in messages of support for survivors.

On April 17, a self-defense workshop will be held on the fifth floor of Gumberg Library, where students can learn and discuss ways to prevent sexual violence on campus.

The art show served as a starting opportunity for the campus to come together and talk about important issues around sexual violence.

“I hope it gives people the sense of support that they’re able to share their own stories,” Walker said. “To have people show up and continue giving their support is wonderful.”



BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Founder of Students Against Sexual Violence (SASV) Rebecca Ulinski created “Series of Collages” for the annual Art Show on Tuesday evening. Her work focused on her interpersonal relationships. The event gives students and survivors of sexual violence the opportunity to process and relate their experiences to attendees and community members.

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“You and I come by road or
rail, but economists travel
on infrastructure.”

Margaret Thatcher

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

@TheDukesneDuke

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Dukesne 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



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The Fern Hollow Bridge in Frick Park collapsed in 2022, bringing national attention to America's failing infrastructure.

America's bridges are falling down

NICK ZOTOS

ads manager

London Bridge is falling down, and so is transportation infrastructure all over the United States.

Americans everywhere are recognizing a simple and obvious fact: America's bridges are falling down, a problem made more evident following the March 26 Baltimore Key Bridge collapse after a maritime vessel collided with one of the pillars. The incident claimed the lives of six individuals while also blocking a key port for cargo transportation.

This accident underscores the need for comprehensive and bipartisan policy changes to how transportation infrastructure in our country is maintained and serviced. According to the Associated Press, about 42,000 bridges in the U.S. are in “poor” condition as defined by the National Transportation Safety Board. This is 42,000 bridges too many.

Pittsburghers are not strangers to failing infrastructure. Who can forget the infamous Greenfield Bridge under which a second, smaller bridge had to be built to prevent crumbling concrete from smashing windshields on I-376 below?

How about the Fern Hollow Bridge, which collapsed in 2022 due to structural integrity issues? The event attracted national attention when President Joe Biden stopped at the site to promote his bipartisan “Build Back Better” legislation.

After the Fern Hollow Bridge collapsed, the National Transportation and Safety Board chair promised that with “diligent attention to inspection, maintenance and repair” our nation's infrastructure would improve.

Since the chairperson's comment, four bridges have collapsed, one of the worst train derailments to ever occur rocked the town of East Palestine, Ohio and the state of our nation's highways and roads has continued to worsen.

2021 ended with a “C-” for the United States' infrastructure rating according to the American Society of Civil Engineers four year report. To put it bluntly, the Department of Transportation

and the National Transportation Safety Board are failing.

Among all the chaos, the Biden administration has recently signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, approving \$1.2 trillion for national transportation and infrastructure improvements. While this may seem significant, it is well below the Society of Civil Engineers' recommendation of a \$4 trillion investment for the U.S. to achieve a satisfactory “B+” rating on infrastructure.

How did we get in such a dire state? Well, money matters, but how you spend it matters more. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, infrastructure investment has trended down for decades, reaching all-time lows in 2020. Our politicians have been neglecting infrastructure, and the recent bridge collapse in Baltimore is not just a wake-up call, it is a catastrophic failure.

Money is not the only issue, it is also the service of railways, tunnels and bridges that must change. According to National Bridge Inspection Standards, it does not matter which state agency inspects public bridges, as long as they follow national safety guidelines. While the safety requirements for bridges in the U.S. may all be the same, the non-standardization of when and which agencies inspect or service our bridges inadvertently leads to discrepancies across the nation.

Any policy which seeks to bolster the transportation infrastructure of our country must provide guidelines for interstate agency oversight, communication and standardization to expedite the rate of maintenance and repair. A study by the Indiana Department of Transportation found that bridges should be replaced or repaired every 53 years. The average age of our country's bridges is 42. Our bridges are aging, and our government does not have federal laws in place to maintain them fast enough. Issues in passing bipartisan infrastructure legislation stem from both sides of the aisle. The most recent bill, passed by the Biden administration, only had the support of 19 Republicans in the Senate and 13 in the House of Rep-

resentatives. This reinforces the growing trend of Republicans being unwilling to increase spending into governmental projects, even if the critical funding is warranted.

However, Republicans are not the only ones to blame. With the latest bill comes Democrats tacking on other various initiatives that had nothing to do with infrastructure. Fifteen percent of the funding provided by the bill is allocated to electric vehicle integration and the systemic installment of charging stations. Another large facet of funding is dedicated to climate change concerns and the decarbonization of America's infrastructure. This leaves only \$284 billion dedicated to improving the surface transportation network.

While addressing sustainable transportation initiatives and climate change are important, they should be addressed separately to truly achieve bipartisan support.

A spokesperson for Rep. Steve Scalise, R-La, a senior Republican and vocal critic of the bill, said, “What he [the congressman] did not support is tying necessary infrastructure needs to unrelated, Green New Deal policies Democrats put in their \$1.2 trillion bill — very little of which was dedicated to traditional infrastructure.”

While the merits of addressing sustainable transportation policies can be debated at another time, the congressman is right about one thing: Traditional infrastructure must be attended to with greater concern.

The president is right by saying that we need to “build back better.” However, actions speak louder than words.

Money will only be as effective as the policy changes that go with the provided resources. The United States government must take steps to ensure the safety and efficiency of transportation infrastructure in the United States. More federal governmental oversight into bridge, tunnel and rail maintenance is required. More standardization as to when and how transportation infrastructure is maintained is necessary. More funding to combat the issue is crucial. If we truly are going to “rebuild,” then we must act now. The lives of Americans depend on it.

STAFF EDITORIAL

When community programs flourish, we all do

In last week's issue of *The Duke*, we learned about Sunny's Community Garden, which serves the Hill District and Manchester areas. The gardens are made from unused urban lots and are gathering places for neighbors to see and harvest where their healthy food comes from.

With projects started by passionate Pittsburghers like Sunny, the green space is not the only thing that flourishes — it's also our own knowledge of the world around us.

Volunteers work to build the gardens, but the community does the rest, giving the growers a sense of freedom. It can also provide happiness, can broaden your horizons and can even help you find a sense of belonging with other volunteers.

Our Center, an organization whose mission is to transform people's lives by helping them reach their personal potential, discussed the importance of community engagement in a blog.

It said volunteering provides people with an indescribable feeling of a sense of fulfillment and a dose of gratitude. The blog also emphasizes how it strengthens a community since a strong community is one that has members supporting one another through light and dark times.

Projects like Sunny's Garden allow people to learn how to grow, and it gives them access to fresh food in a city where healthy food can sometimes be difficult to buy or find. They not only allow neighborhoods to get involved but also benefit them by providing delicious fruits and vegetables and sometimes even new friends.

According to Grow Pittsburgh, growing your own food cultivates relaxation, helps save money and bolsters food security. With Grow Pittsburgh in 2022, there was an estimated 43,000 pounds of food grown at their 44 community gardens and 34,273 pounds of food grown at their urban farms.

Since it can be hard to find land to start growing crops in a city like Pittsburgh, these types of projects are extremely beneficial. They provide the land and allow the community to do the rest.

In addition, programs like Grow Pittsburgh and Sunny's Community Garden provide classes and lessons on how to cook and use the items the neighborhoods are growing in case they're unsure how to prepare meals with them.

Learning these skills is so important since schools typically don't offer life lessons like these. It also offers free education, not forcing Pittsburghers to pay for information that should be accessible to them in the first place.

When programs like Sunny's Community Garden flourish, so does Pittsburgh.

Generative AI is a scourge on the art world

ELIYAHU GASSON
opinions editor

To celebrate the 50th birthday of their album *Dark Side of the Moon*, Pink Floyd held a competition to create new music videos for each of the record's 10 tracks, with one winner selected for each song. However, the band is facing backlash over one of the winners.

The winner for the song "Any Color You Like" was an AI generated video by 3D artist Damián Gaume. The announcement caused outrage among fans, and rightfully so.

One Reddit user on r/pinkfloyd, u/kosmikmonki, said, "this is absolutely awful in every respect. AI generated morph stock art sequence. It's a huge pity that this is the winner. There is no worthy prize-winning skill that contributed to this whatsoever."

Gaume's victory in Pink Floyd's contest is the perfect example of the problem that is AI generated art. For some bizarre reason, Gaume's lazily produced "art" was chosen to win a \$100,000 prize, while hand-drawn animations, like the submission by online animator Yosh for the song "Eclipse," got shafted by the judges.

Art is hard. It takes years of hard work and dedication to hone any craft, let alone animation.

Animators and cartoonists need to put a lot of time, effort and thought into perfecting their character designs, backgrounds, colors and motion. Not to mention the amount of time that

goes into producing an animation.

Yosh's submission runs for a brief two minutes and 13 seconds. The average animations are made up of 24 frames flashing on the screen for one second each. An animation like Yosh's is made up of 2,893 individual paintings, all of which needed to be drawn, colored and shaded by hand.

Gaume's submission was made using prompts in a computer program called Stable Diffusion.

In his defense, Gaume didn't train his instance of Stable Diffusion off of other people's pre-existing art, at least according to a statement he made in a behind the scenes video on Pink Floyd's X account.

"I used Stable Diffusion installed locally, so I didn't use it online," he said in the video. "I trained my own models and I used Blender to create something. Some trigger images, so I could get some fresh ideas from the AI."

All this means is that Gaume created some 3D images on his computer, fed it into his copy of Stable Diffusion, told the AI what he wanted to see it do with his images and submitted the result to a contest alongside visually intricate and hand drawn animations.

In total, Gaume entered six music videos into the contest, which is rather indicative of the little amount of time it must have taken him to produce said videos.

This is not to say Gaume is not a talented artist. That much is made evident on his Instagram art account, @marblemaniki. The problem in this case is what it means for artists work

in the future.

Generative AI programs like Stable Diffusion, Midjourney and Open AI's Dall-E, if used online, pull from works created by real people and synthesize them into strange images and videos. Everything generative AI produces is derivative of works produced by talented and hardworking people.

What's more worrying than Gaume's submissions are people who attempt to pass the products that generative AI produces for them off as their own original "art."

Sure, what Gaume did in the Pink Floyd contest was lazy — a spit in the face of the animators who dedicated hours to their artwork — but at least he fed his original works into the software that generated his videos.

One can't make the claim that Gaume is a plagiarist, but one could say that about many other "AI artists" sharing their "art" online.

Lazy and talentless people have finally found a way to visually express themselves via prompts, and all they need to do is steal from other hard working individuals.

At the moment, AI generated visuals aren't all that good. 3D characters look like waxy, glitchy caricatures come to life.

But it was only a year or two ago that the machines had a hard time drawing realistic hands and teeth.

As time passes and generative AI systems become better, AI-generated visuals will become indistinguishable from art produced by real people. And here lies the ethical dilemma about

which greater action is needed.

This issue requires legislation, it's certainly not something that the industry is going to self-regulate. And there's precedent here that should make the decision easier for legislators.

In 2011, photographer David Slater's camera was snatched by a crested black macaque named Naruto during a wildlife field trip in Indonesia. The monkey turned the camera on himself, smiled and by a stroke of goofy dumb luck, snapped a selfie.

The photo sparked a debate over copyright when the picture went viral. Wikimedia Commons and the blog *Techdirt*, hosted the images despite objections from Slater that he owned the copyright. The People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), held that the copyright for the image belonged to the monkey.

Following a series of legal disputes and attempted settlements, the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled animals cannot legally hold copyrights.

The court also ruled that there was no copyright on the photo, despite the fact that it was taken on Slater's equipment.

Slater too doesn't own the copyright because he didn't take the photo, and works must be created by a human to be copyrighted.

So there's our precedent. Original works must be created by people to be copyrightable.

AI generated works are not made by people, they're synthesized by machines using other people's copyrighted work. If anything, AI generated works are in-

Bronny would do well at Duquesne

BRENTARO YAMANE
multimedia editor

On Friday, Bronny James, son of LeBron James, announced his decision to enter the NBA Draft while maintaining his college eligibility by entering the NCAA transfer portal.

Bronny is one of the most popular players in college basketball at the moment, given his father's record as the NBA's all-time leading scorer.

There is discussion now on whether Bronny will get drafted by the NBA based on his stats during his freshman year at the University of Southern California (USC). In his freshman season, Bronny played in 25 games, starting in six of those contests. He averaged 4.8 points per game while playing an average of 19.6 minutes.

However, his performance during his freshman year may not even matter, as he may get drafted to the NBA solely based on his name.

If Bronny doesn't get drafted or sign with an NBA team, that will leave him back to college and searching for an NCAA team to join.

The decision for Bronny would then be which school he would attend. There has been speculation that Duquesne may be one of his top choices, as reported by Adrian Wojnarowski for *ESPN*.

He'd do well by coming to Duquesne for his sophomore year. Family ties to the men's basketball program's staff and the quieter environment of the A-10 would go a long way toward his development as a player and a person.

College athletes pick schools based on the name, image and likeness (NIL) rights of-

ferred to them.

Whether Bronny stays at USC, transfers to another Power 5 school or moves to a small Division I school like Duquesne shouldn't matter to him, at least as far as NIL rights are concerned. Companies will be offering him money and endorsement deals either way.

This past year, according to *Sports Illustrated*, Bronny was one of the highest-paid college athletes, with his highest valued NIL deal sitting at \$5.9 million.

Bronny would also make a bigger impact at a smaller school like Duquesne. Power 5 schools produce star players all the time like Duke's Jerry McCain, DJ Burns Jr. of NC State and Zach Edey of Purdue — schools that have already built up legacies around their men's basketball programs. At Duquesne, Bronny has an opportunity to

"At Duquesne, Bronny has an opportunity to help build a legacy, not just for himself, but for the Duke's MBB."

help build a legacy, not just for himself, but for the Duke's MBB.

Bronny would also benefit from moving down to a smaller league like the A-10. Doing so could provide him more confidence on the court and be an opportunity to improve his skill in a more manageable, less stressful environment.

But the biggest incentive for Bronny transferring to the Bluff is the Duke's new head coach, Dru Joyce III. Joyce played 12 years of professional overseas basketball after playing

college basketball at the University of Akron.

As for his relationship to Bronny, Joyce has known the kid since he was a baby given he is close friends with his father, LeBron. LeBron and Joyce played basketball together at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School and knew each other before that, first meeting when they were 10 years old.

Out of all the coaches in NCAA Division I, the person that likely knows Bronny the best, both as a person and a player, is Joyce.

And if Bronny is concerned with academics, Duquesne would make a great fit.

While at USC, Bronny majored in business administration. Coincidentally, as of February 2023, Duquesne's Palumbo-Donahue School of Business was ranked by the Princeton Review as one of the best business schools in the country on both the graduate and undergraduate levels.

And if Bronny ever wants to get away from Duquesne during the weekend, he wouldn't have to travel far to see family. With Bronny's parents being from Akron, he likely has some family members that still live in the area.

If Bronny decides to go back to college and does pick Duquesne, his father LeBron would be in attendance to watch a game. But also, his choice in school could affect his younger brother Bryce's decision to attend Duquesne one day as well. If Bronny became a Duquesne Duke, this university would surely carry a meaningful legacy.

Bronny has a big choice to make. Should he not get drafted into the NBA, he'll have to decide on what college would be the best fit for him. With familial ties and a small, up-and-coming program, there is no better place for a young player like Bronny to be than Duquesne.



BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

As a childhood friend of LeBron James, Dru Joyce III (center) already has ties to Bronny, James' son.

Duqathon gets students dancing for the kids

ISABELLA ABBOTT
features editor

On Saturday, dozens of students danced for a good cause at Duquesne's Miracle Network Dance Marathon, "Duqathon." Students raised more than \$40,000 all afternoon while dancing and participating in activities.

According to the Miracle Network Dance Marathon website, each year, the organization raises funds for 170 children's hospitals that support the health of 10 million kids across the U.S. and Canada. Through dance marathons, they have raised \$350 million for local children's hospitals since 1991.

This is Duquesne's fourth annual dance marathon, which included a jungle theme and a "wild for the kids" slogan.

Some students raised money for the cause; others had a deeper, more personal connection to the Children's Hospital.

Junior nursing major and president of this year's Duqathon, Abby Barner, danced for her nephew Liam.

"When he was three, two days after his birthday, he was diagnosed with leukemia," Barner said. "He's in remission now, and he absolutely loves everyone at Children's, it's like going to play for him, he doesn't mind at all, which just shows how well they're treated there."

Barner said any donations help as the illness impacts not just the children but the entire family.

"It's giving back to your community and

doing something more than just things on campus, it extends into the Pittsburgh community as well," Barner said.

Though she first got involved before her nephew's diagnosis, the event means even more to her and her family now.

"Having the opportunity to bring more smiles and ease a family's stress is something I strive for," Barner said.

At the beginning of the event, miracle kids were introduced through a student tunnel, where applause and smiles greeted them. Each kid then introduced themselves and their favorite jungle animals to the crowd. Liam's favorite was a leopard; another young visitor, Kendra, liked monkeys.

During the event, students could purchase Kendra Scott's jewelry, and 20% of the proceeds went to the event. Other optional activities included petting service dogs Indy and Sandy, racing through a bounce house obstacle course and entering into a raffle. The bounce house obstacle course was a hit for parents, college-aged students and kids alike.

A makeshift jail was new to this year's marathon. Students could donate to the event to put their friends in jail, and those in jail had to raise double the amount to get out. Visiting DUPO officers ended up in jail for \$5, needing to raise \$10 to exit.

Another student was jailed for \$90 and needed to raise \$180 to get out. His other friend spent \$10 more to make the exit out of jail at \$200.

Although this event seemed smaller than last year, the organization raised \$41,229.87, of which Barner, president and top donor this year, raised \$1,177.98.

Another top donor this year and the top donor last year, Madeline Bubb, said their executive team grew close this year, making the event more successful.

Her key to raising money was contacting friends, family members, and local businesses in her hometown. She said this was easier than contacting bigger corporations as she has a more personal connection to her hometown and her family.

"No matter how much money we raise, we are always happy to give anything we can," Bubb said.

Some fundraisers, like freshman education major Brooke Standish, said she participated because she "loves working with kids."

Freshman sociology and criminal justice major Marlena Sartini said she enjoyed seeing people come and volunteer at the event and that everyone was very sweet to the kids who attended.

Other fundraisers, like junior and third-year Duqathon participant Alexa Lovelace, said she wanted to participate in the event after seeing bigger dance marathons like Penn State's Thon. She said planning the day is a yearlong event.

"I know a lot of people think it's just one day, but it is like a long process," Lovelace said. "We have to get our sponsors together, food, work with the fieldhouse staff



BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR
During Duqathon, students were able to participate in many different activities. Here students are seen petting Sandy, a therapist at the event.

to make sure everything's set up, and we work a lot directly with the hospital."

Lovelace, like her fellow volunteers, also enjoys working toward the cause.

"I think it's really important not only because it's a great cause but also because it's right in our backyard," Lovelace said. "It's supporting something in your city and the people who need the help in your city."

Library student employee wins endowed scholarship

NAOMI GIRSON
staff writer

Gumberg Library, this week, honored a sophomore physicians assistant major with their annual student employee scholarship.

Natalee Whartenby received the 2024 Gumberg Library Student Endowed scholarship in the library reading room. Whartenby has worked at the library since the beginning of her freshman year.

At the award ceremony on April 10, she received a certificate and a plaque with her name on it that will be hung there.

According to Sara Baron, the dean of the library and speaker at the ceremony, the Gumberg Library Student Endowed Scholarship was created 21 years ago by library employees as a way to honor their student workers.

"It truly was a grassroots effort," Baron said. "We had a few librarians who were committed to recognizing our student workers. They started this fund and they've added to it every year and it's grown. And now the scholarship pays out about \$1,200 to the winner."

The open application process encouraged staff to nominate student employees. According to Elizabeth Sciuilli each year they receive three to 10 nominees. This year, five students received a nomination to recognize their work in Gumberg.

Rewarding the students is important to the library employees.

"We just love rewarding our student employees. They open the library first thing in the morning, and they close the



AVA RIEGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Natalee Whartenby has been selected as the winner of the 2024 Gumberg Library Student Endowed Scholarship. Sara Baron, right, presented Natalee with the award.

library late at night," Baron said. "And they do so with smiling faces. They help us stay open and serve our students and visitors."

This year, the theme for National Library Week at Gumberg is Ready Set Library, focusing on the dynamic aspects of the facility that make it more than just the basic services they provide, it is an interactive and innovative space for learning.

Aside from awarding the student scholarship, Gumberg hosted their second annual Human Library in which students could "check out" a Duquesne police officer.

As Baron said, the week looks into how "the Gumberg Library libraries."

The awards ceremony also recognized the Gumberg Library Staff Excellence winner, Maribeth Condo. Condo has worked for the library for over four years. "I'm shocked and very honored," Condo said.

During the ceremony, Baron said that the staff award was created to recognize those who go above and beyond normal daily duties. Any member of the full-time staff can be nominated, and this year, that included 10 staff members.

Those who nominated Condo described her as dedicated, proactive, involved and

supportive of the library's mission. She has a spirit of excellence that can be aspired to, and she fosters a welcoming and inclusive environment, Baron said during her speech.

The staff award includes a \$500 monetary reward and a paid day off work. There will also be a plaque recognizing Condo inside Gumberg.

Whartenby said she loves working in the library and plans to stay there for the foreseeable future. Both Whartenby and Condo gushed about the community at the library. The best part, they both said, is the people they work with. Whartenby described the library workplace as welcoming and judgment-free.

Whartenby reflected on the skills she has accumulated since she started her duties at Gumberg.

"Definitely a lot of patience, a lot of patience," Whartenby said. "And just being able to work with others, and knowing that I can ask other people for help."

Some of Whartenby's friends and co-workers came to watch the ceremony.

Both senior Leeann Pawlak and sophomore Katie Leitholf enjoy working with Whartenby and in the library. They said it is always a fun environment, full of laughter and cheer.

They said that Whartenby is always friendly at the desk, and she is super nice and ready to help.

To celebrate National Library Week, the best thing students can do is be there.

"Just come, come to the library," Condo said. "We have a lot of things to offer. I think a lot of people, especially the students, don't know what's really available to them. So come see us at the library."

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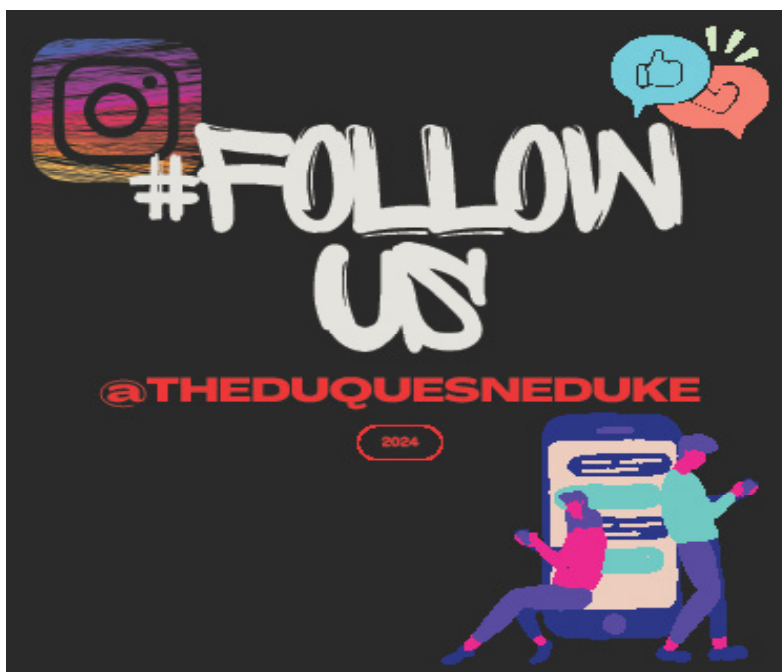
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