



Duquesne's new AI guidelines promote literacy over restriction

EMBER DUKE
layout editor

In light of recent and emerging advancements in artificial intelligence, the university has updated its guidelines regarding the use of AI and generative technology.

The update serves as a set of parameters rather than strict policy change, intended to give students and faculty space to learn about AI within the limits of the school's academic integrity policy, said David Dausey, vice president of the provost. The university felt a guide was better suited because of how fast AI changes.

"We are really encouraging both faculty and students to embrace AI. It is something that is not going away," Dausey said. "For many disciplines, and for many areas, in many fields, you might need to be conversant in the use of artificial intelligence to be successful in your career, so we want to be training people to use it."

The guide recommends three instructional models for implementing AI in the classroom. An open, moderate and a restrictive approach, all at the discretion of the professor.

"I want them [students] to be able to feel comfortable with the use of AI within the guidelines established by the faculty in each course. And this is a matter of academic freedom for the faculty, and so we are not prescribing to faculty," he said. "I think that you know, at least having a general understanding

see **POLICY** — page 3

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Labor Day Parade: A precursor to Biden-Harris labor union rally



AVA RIEGER | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Thousands of labor workers marched in Pittsburgh's 40th Labor Day Parade on Monday. The sound of hammers and tools from Ironworkers Local Union No. 3's float echoed throughout Grant Street as union members acted out a typical day on the job.

KAITLYN HUGHES
features editor

Spectators lined the streets of Pittsburgh to witness thousands of union workers march in one of the country's largest Labor Day parades.

This was the city's 40th parade since it recommenced in 1984, according to Pittsburgh Union Progress.

American flags waved in the air, crowds cheered and Israel-Palestine protesters filled the scene.

Participants, attendees and state officials came together to celebrate what unions have done for America and the city of Pittsburgh.

The 1892 Homestead Strike is at the heart of the labor movement in Pittsburgh's history. It was a contentious battle between Carnegie Steel and labor unions that turned violent at a steel plant owned by Andrew Carnegie.

Later in the day, President Joe Biden and Kamala Harris spoke at a campaign event in Pittsburgh. It was held at the JATC

Local Union in the South Side. **State officials showed their support**

Gov. Josh Shapiro made an appearance at the parade. He shook hands, posed for pictures and held babies, all while showing his support for unions.

"I love the Labor Day parade in Pittsburgh. I think it's iconic," Shapiro told *The Duke*. "I mean think about it. We have the president of the United States and the vice president coming here in a few hours because they know how important Pittsburgh is, and they know how important labor is here in this community."

The vice president and democratic candidates have the support of both the union leadership and membership, Shapiro said.

He said they will keep working on this relationship throughout the days leading up to the election. The campaign will show the difference between Vice President Kamala Harris's and former President Donald Trump's stances on healthy working people, Shapiro said.

"There's a whole lot of people walking past us here in this parade who went to work because [of] the Biden-Harris administration," Shapiro said to reporters. "We're going to have jobs for years to come because of the vision of the Biden-Harris administration."

U.S. Senator Bob Casey was also present at Monday's celebration.

According to Casey, Pittsburgh's Labor Day parade is one of the most important in the country because a lot of stories of labor began in the city.

"For a generation now, the corporate right has tried to kneecap unions, to try to take away the right to organize," Casey told *The Duke*. "We have to stop them from doing that."

Casey said he supports the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, unlike his opponent David McCormick.

If the Senate has a Republican majority after the election, the future of workers' rights and labor unions could be at risk, ac-

ording to Casey.

"That's why my Senate election is so critical to our [democrats] majority," Casey told *The Duke*.

Both Biden and Harris said that unions are a vital part of a thriving economy.

Biden-Harris takes on Pittsburgh.

At 5:30 p.m. Monday evening Harris and Biden kicked off their campaign event in Pittsburgh.

This was after Harris spent the morning campaigning in Detroit and speaking with union leaders.

Spectators with signs that read "Labor" and "Union Strong" chanted repeatedly for Biden as he took the stage after being announced by Kenneth Cooper, IBEW international president.

This was not Biden's first time visiting the Steel City on Labor Day.

"I have celebrated many Labor Days in Pittsburgh," Biden said on Monday.

This was a tribute to the four times he has visited the city over the past 15 years for the holiday.

see **LABOR** — page 2

Democrats talk unions at 40th annual Labor Day Parade

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from LABOR — page 1

Biden said that the steel workers were the first union to endorse him in 1972 when he was running for U.S. Senate.

“Wall Street did not build America,” Biden said to the people present at the rally. “The middle class built America, and unions built the middle class.”

The reason the U.S. economy is as strong as it is today is because of unions, he said.

Biden said he and Harris are proud of having the greatest job creation record of any president in a single term in American history. He touted the 16 million new jobs that created over the past four years, including the 800,000 manufacturing jobs.

“I spent my whole career believing in unions,” Biden said at the rally. “I’m not joking when I say that I’m honored to be considered the most pro-union president ever.”

According to Biden, Harris

is the only rational choice for those who care about the dignity of work.

Harris said that Pittsburgh is a cradle of the American labor movement. She acknowledged that the city is the birthplace of The American Federation of Labor, home of headquarters of the steelworkers, home to Firefighters Local One and the historic IBEW Local Five.

Harris said the nation has benefitted from the fair pay, better benefits and safe working conditions laborers have fought for.

“I tell people you may not be a union member, but you better thank unions for that five-day work week. Thank unions for sick leave. Thank unions for paid family leave. Thank unions for your vacation time,” Harris said at the rally. “When unions are strong, America is strong.”

According to Harris, her administration’s vision will focus on the future, while her opponent Trump’s vision is focused

on the past.

As of Monday there were 64 days until the election, and 14 days until ballots in Pennsylvania start dropping.

“This election is, as much as anything else, a fight for the promise of America,” Harris said on Monday.

Harris and her running mate Tim Walz will return to Pittsburgh later this week. Their visit has been labeled as an official White House event, opposed to being a campaign stop. No further information has been released.

Laborers for Palestine

Not all the laborers present at the parade were in favor of current elected officials.

About 20 protesters gathered behind a banner that read, “The National Labor Network for Ceasefire.” Waving Palestinian flags and signs, the group showed disapproval of Shapiro by booing him when he made his appearance on Grant Street.

Kit Baril is a member of a labor union at United Food and Commercial Workers. Baril helped organize a union for her workplace, but came to the parade to show support for Palestine.

“To show that the working class does support other countries,” Baril said, “and not genocide.”

Baril said that the goal of the protest was to gain supporters of a ceasefire, while showing that they stood with the working people.

“We can take all the money that’s going to wars, like what’s going on in Palestine, and actually use it for working people in Pittsburgh,” Baril said.

Aside from fighting for Palestine, Baril said workers need to fight for better rights and conditions.

Workers’ rights have been torn apart by both sides of the political spectrum, according to Baril.

“I don’t think we can count on our politicians anymore,” Baril

said. “We have to count on ourselves.”

Sabrina Maines was another protester present at the parade. Maines said that laborers and workers have historically supported Palestine.

There is a need for an arms embargo on Israel, according to Maines.

“I don’t want my tax dollars paying for genocide,” she said.

Workers supporting workers

Nathan Malachowski is a registered nurse at West Penn Hospital who is in the union that is on the verge of a strike.

Malachowski is a part of a committee which was elected by the union in the hospital. This committee is negotiating a contract which advocates for more investment in the nursing staff.

“We went back to our union and asked them to authorize a strike vote for us, and they did that,” Malachowski said. “99% of nurses at our hospital and in our unit voted yes to authorize a strike.”

The negotiating committee has the authority to issue its strike notice if the contract is not seen as adequate.

Malachowski came to the Labor Day parade to raise awareness of a rally that was scheduled at noon in Friendship Park on Wednesday.

“We wanted to be able to talk with all our other friends and brothers and sisters in the labor movement about what’s happening,” Malachowski said.

William Eakin, had almost 44 years of service working at the United Steelworkers Headquarters in Pittsburgh before retiring in February of 2020.

Eakin said that it’s important to recognize Labor Day each year to give workers a chance to discuss issues and support mutual concerns.

“Labor pretty much saved my life,” Eakin said. “I wouldn’t have most of what I have without it.”



AVA RIEGER | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Labor workers took the day’s festivities as an opportunity to demonstrate their support for a cease fire in Gaza. Multiple different union groups joined together to march in the parade chanting “Laborers for Palestine.”

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Three shot, one killed near campus

SPENCER THOMAS & KAITLYN HUGHES
editor-in-chief & features editor

One person was killed and two others were wounded after a shooting on Fifth Avenue on Saturday evening, less than a quarter of a mile from Duquesne’s campus. The university has said that the victims were neither students nor employees at Duquesne.

Police secured the crime scene and set up a perimeter, but by Wednesday there were currently no suspects, and nobody was in custody. The shooting occurred near the intersection of Fifth and Marion Street, near the Shell gas station frequented by on-campus and nearby residents. Fifth and several other streets in the area remain closed. According to the Pittsburgh Public Safety Blotter, the alleged shooter fled northward on foot, in the opposite direction of Duquesne’s campus.

Pittsburgh Police, Fire and EMS were dispatched to the area for a 10 round ShotSpotter alert just before 8 p.m., and at 8:11, students received a DUALERT reporting gunshots on campus, and commanding students to stay inside and lock doors. At 8:30, a follow-up message simply read “incident occurred off campus.”

Lawrence Kelley Jr., 68, of Pittsburgh, died at Mercy Hospital at 8:15pm.

There is an ongoing investigation by the Violent Crime Unit.

This story will be updated online as information is provided.



AVA RIEGER | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

The shooting took place near the intersection of Fifth and Marion Street. As of Wednesday, no perpetrator had been caught.

Duq's new AI policy allows professors to use their discretion

from POLICY — page 1

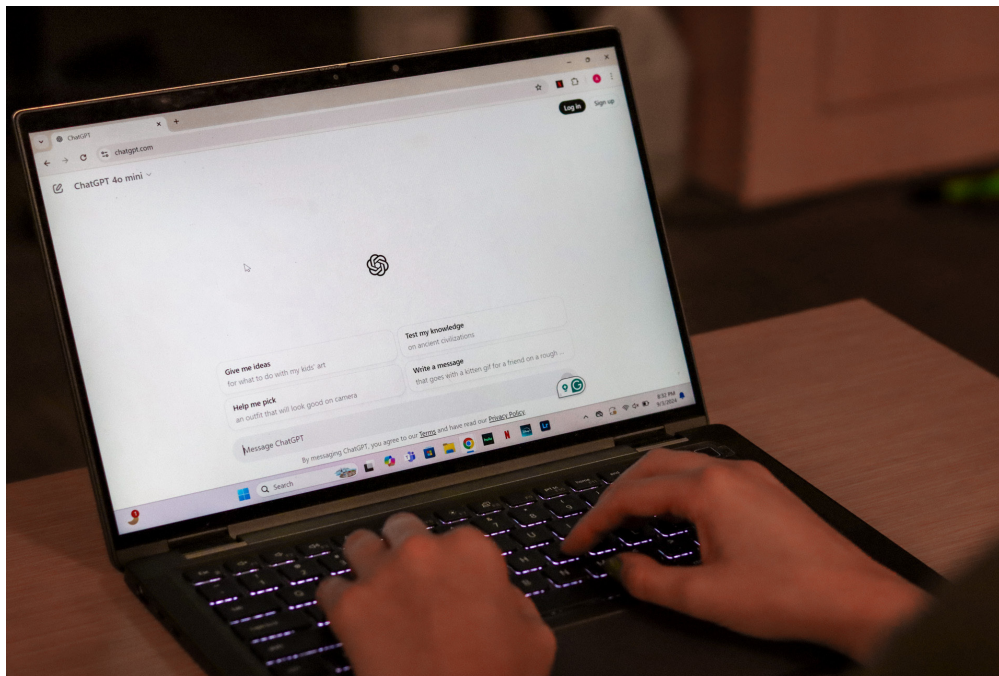
of the tools, what they're capable of doing, and how they might be utilized, is absolutely critical."

A faculty based committee helped design the guideline. They plan to meet regularly throughout the academic year and to keep up on the topic. They also consulted students in the guide development.

about the constraints and ethical uses of AI, he said. Purdy is also a member of the faculty AI committee.

"What are the ways that are appropriate to use it within a context for this course, but also a framework that they can take into other writing situations and learning situations to make informed decisions," he said.

In his classroom he promotes AI as a



AVA RIEGER | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

After deliberation Duquesne has implemented a policy on artificial intelligence this fall. The policy recommends three models including an open, moderate and a restrictive approach.

Jeff Lambert, assistant director for educational development, philosophy professor and member of the faculty AI committee, said the major policy changes regard data usage.

"The idea here is they're just making it an addendum to the data governance guidelines saying generative AI restricted data may not be used in conjunction with any generative AI tool that the university is not licensed and or contracted for use," Lambert said.

A change in written policy that is applicable to students includes an addition to the administrative policy number 26. It states that, "users of Generative AI must ensure that computing resources are safeguarded. In addition, users of Generative AI are responsible for the accuracy, privacy, regulatory compliance, and ethical use of content developed using generative AI tools or services and used in campus communications and documentation including email."

Preparing students to use AI responsibly and promoting literacy are the foundation of the new guidelines, Lambert said.

"One of the other benefits of going with a guideline approach is it allows us to be a lot more agile and dynamic in responding to consistent changes in technologies like generative AI," he said.

James Purdy, English and writing studies professor and the director of the university writing center, is teaching an essential questions seminar this semester titled: Will Generative AI replace Writing? The EQ class will engage students in a discussion

"bookend" tool.

"At the beginning, for like invention or brainstorming, and at the end for proof-reading and editing, rather than for like drafting a text, or for asking it to write something or summarize something for a writer," he said. "The idea, of course, is that generative AI will augment learning, rather than replace or outsource learning."

Athletic training professor, Erica Beidler, also takes a moderate approach to AI in the classroom. She uses it as a research generation and writing improvement tool.

"It just became really apparent there's no there's not going to be a reality moving forward where AI doesn't exist anymore," she said. "So for me, it was the decision as an educator to embrace it, because it's not going away, and how can we leverage it for good."

Though the approach to AI in the classroom differs among faculty and courses, the general sentiment is to open a dialogue, said Purdy.

"There's [not] only one way of thinking about it, other than it's important to be responsible in articulating clear expectations for students and in modeling best practices from an instructor perspective," he said. "Rather than kind of ignoring the advent of generative AI and pretending that it's not there, we need to engage it responsibly and ethically ... we need to be very clear for students, the context in which it's appropriate and not, and that that can differ by different fields."

Students can read the new guidelines on Artificial Intelligence at Duquesne page of the university's website.

3 Student Government lays out 24-25 plan

ELIYAHU GASSON & MEGAN TROTTER
opinions editor & news editor

The Duquesne University Student Government Association held its first meeting Wednesday night in The Africa Room.

The first meeting served as an opportunity for the SGA executive board to introduce themselves to the senators-at-large as well as share what they had been working on leading up to the meeting.

First to present was Vice President of Communications Mary Paternoster, who shared her recent activity on SGA's social media.

She was followed by Vice President of Academic Affairs Braden Niles.

"The main thing I would relay to senators and senators-at-large is that we just launched something called Degree Planner," he said.

Degree Planner is a degree-audit system that Duquesne is now using to help students to see how completed and planned coursework directly applies to the specific requirements of their program. This will help students better plan their studies to prepare their credits and experience for graduation.

"The thinking behind this was that we need to free up time for our success coaches to have a more holistic approach beyond just scheduling," Niles said.

Degree Planner is being rolled out gradually school-by-school. The program will start with the School of Nursing and the A.J. Palumbo School of Business on Sept. 9 before being applied to the school of Education on Sept. 16 and the school of Liberal Arts on Sept. 23.

During the meeting, officials indicated that in mid-May the Music, Health Sciences, Graduate Nursing, Pharmacy, Science and Engineering and Law schools would also begin utilizing Degree Planner.

SGA President Faith Cook shared how she got an early start to her first semester as president.

"Over the summer I worked to approve the club sports funding this year. So last year if you're familiar, there was a new endowment for club sports at Duquesne and so each year there's gonna be money appropri-

ated now to club sports funding," Cook said.

Since her summer meeting with Duquesne's Director of Recreation, Cook said she got a final budget approved.

SGA provided *The Duke* with an informal version of the budget which includes a starting amount of a little over \$22,000. Cook said as the year continues the budget will further indicate how money is appropriated.

Vice President of Finance Sean Marshall followed Niles's presentation. Marshall expressed a desire to grow the number of businesses offering discounts to Duquesne students.

"I think there's a lot of opportunity that we can get student discounts, whether that's the Market Square or The Strip District or wherever anyone else has input," Marshall said.

Next was Vice President of Student Life Brailly Frankhouser, who announced the date for the annual Night of Lights, where Duquesne closes off Academic Walk for students to gather at an official holiday lights ceremony. This year's festivities will take place on Nov. 8.

Frankhouser also reminded attendees that students should begin utilizing the TransLoc Rider app, which lets you always know where your bus is located, and can be used to track Duquesne specific transportation like the loop shuttles.

Campus Minister, Linda Donovan, also mentioned a new app available to Duquesne students. The app is called "Cork" and allows students easy access to Campus Link.

In closing, Cook discussed the process for electing senators during next week's meeting.

Any student is considered to be a senator-at-large. To be considered for a senator position, senators-at-large are required to attend at least two SGA meetings and fill out a petition to apply for the roll.

"There is this senator petition form on Campus Link where after this meeting today, you can go on there and fill it out if you would like to be a senator," Cook said. "I know sometimes Campus Link can be a little confusing and I would love to help."

Next week's meeting will take place Wednesday at 5 p.m. in the SGA office on the first floor of the Student Union.



CHRISTAN WITTERMAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Student Government Association's first meeting this year included an attendee reminder that students can now track the school shuttle to help maximize their time before class.

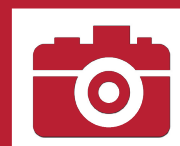


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Turnovers doom football's opener at Toledo

MICHAEL O'GRADY
sports editor

Duquesne football opened up their season under the lights on Thursday night with a 49-10 loss to Toledo at the Glass Bowl. The Rockets, who were ranked as high as 23rd at times in last year's AP College Football Poll, cruised to the win with their up-tempo offense, and extended Duquesne's losing streak against FBS schools to five.

Though the Duke defense would struggle all game, the offense kept the score relatively close for most of the first half before several turnovers brought what momentum they had to a screeching halt. Quarterback Darius Perrantes, beginning his fourth season at Duquesne, was a modest 15-for-26, good for 143 yards and a touchdown, but he also threw a brutal interception.

Perrantes's best weapon of the night was graduate transfer wideout John Erby, who played with Perrantes at Rhode Island in 2019. Erby immediately made his mark on the offense with seven receptions for 69 yards, including a ridiculous toe-tap catch late in the second quarter.

"It means a lot," Erby said on suiting up for Duquesne. "It took a lot to get here, I've been through a lot, but I was just looking for an opportunity here, and my old quarterback gave me one. They bought into me, my team bought into me, I'm just blessed."

Erby took some time to get going, as did most of the offense. Before Duquesne had a first down, Toledo QB Tucker Gleason and his offense had marched down the field twice for touchdowns, one to Junior Vandeross and another to Jacquez Stuart.

On Duquesne's third drive, already down 14 and facing a 3rd-and-17 situation, Perrantes threw a bomb down the right side that Ian Sheehan dove for and caught to advance 35 yards; from there, the offense came alive, albeit with some

luck. Two plays after Sheehan's catch, JaMario Clements broke off for a run but fumbled upfield, and the ball bounced forward for some time evading capture until lineman Tommy Brandt jumped on it in the red zone. The Dukes would eventually score on a 4-yard touchdown pass to tight end Noah Canty.

Toledo responded instantly when Jerjuan Newton left the Dukes in the dust for a 54-yard score on the first play after the following kickoff, but a few runs



PHOTO COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS
Noah Canty scores Duquesne's only touchdown of the night, a four-yard pass.

from Taj Butts and well-placed Perrantes passes brought the Dukes into Toledo territory again early in the second quarter. After two incomplete shots to the end zone, Perrantes found Erby on 4th-and-8 for a clutch 24 yards downfield to keep Duquesne in the game.

The drive came down to a 3rd-and-goal from the Toledo seven-yard-line, where coming out of a timeout, Perrantes looked right and flipped a checkdown to Clements, who was stuffed well before he

reached the end zone. The Dukes would settle for a Brian Bruzdewicz field goal, cutting Toledo's lead to 11 instead of a much more manageable seven.

"Darius saw something and wanted to check to it," Duquesne Head Coach Jerry Schmitt said when asked about the timeout and subsequent play call. "[Toledo] did a pretty good job of disguising. We tried to emphasize all week, just go with what you see and make the plays, and then the play came up short."

As it would turn out, the points left on the board were insignificant, because that would be the last time Duquesne would score. A huge Jack Dunkley sack on third down and an ensuing missed Rockets field goal gave the Dukes the ball back with plenty of time in the first half, but a fumbled handoff to Clements on the first play of the drive gave possession right back to Toledo, and this time they took advantage for another touchdown.

With two minutes to go in the half, Perrantes connected with Erby three times in the hurry-up offense, including Erby's toe-tap catch and another timely fourth-down conversion.

"I'm really happy for [Erby] that he had that opportunity," Schmitt said. "What I saw was an outstanding work ethic since the day he showed up on this campus, as well as a really nice young man, a teammate who helps out other guys. He comes to work every single day, works hard at his craft. He had to work extra hard to learn this system quickly, and it paid off for him."

At the Toledo 27-yard-line with 28 seconds left, the Dukes were in great position to score and immediately get the ball back since they were going to receive the second-half kickoff. Perrantes complicated things, however, by throwing a laser away from all of his targets but straight at defensive back Braden Awls, who held on for the backbreaking interception. The Rockets ran out the clock, and the Dukes went into the locker room down 18.

Duquesne's final killer turnover came on the second-half kickoff itself, when returner Jermaine Johnson fumbled and once again, Toledo came up with the ball. After that, the bottom fell out under Duquesne against their stronger opponent, and the Rockets added three more touchdowns in the second half en route to a 49-10 final.

"You're fighting a battle coming back," Schmitt said. "We made a couple of mistakes, and it really separated the game. It took us out of having a chance at competing. The thing is to correct those mistakes and work on them in practice so that we don't beat ourselves."

Erby, though new to the Bluff, was voted a captain by his teammates prior to the season. He used his platform to emphasize improvement from everyone, including himself.

"Everything was tough sledding today, and [the offense] contributed to that a lot, there's a lot of things I have to work on myself. We did some good things, but enough bad things to put us behind 30-plus points," he said.

Duquesne's schedule only gets more difficult this week. On Saturday, they'll make their first of two trips to Massachusetts this season to play Boston College, a team that just made national headlines for their upset of Florida State. With eight days of rest, the Dukes will be ready for their second-straight test against an FBS opponent, hoping to make a huge upset of their own.

"The kids enjoy the opportunity," Schmitt said. "They like the challenge."

Highlights of the rest of Duquesne's schedule include a Week 3 playoff rematch with Youngstown State, a home opener on Sept. 21 against Division II West Virginia Wesleyan, homecoming on Oct. 5 versus LIU, and the first edition of the Robert Morris rivalry since 2019, when the Northeast Conference-newcomer Colonials will visit Rooney Field on Nov. 9.

Dukes tournament team going pro overseas

MICHAEL O'GRADY
sports editor

On Monday, Nov. 4, the Duquesne community will come together at Cooper Fieldhouse to honor the 2024 men's basketball team, the first iteration of the Dukes to reach the NCAA Tournament in nearly 50 years. An Atlantic 10 Conference Champions banner will be raised, and then the new season will tip off, leaving 2024 to history.

Most of the defending A-10 Champion roster will return, but some players from last year's team who exhausted their eligibility will continue playing the game elsewhere, only as professionals. From Pittsburgh, four players crossed the Atlantic, and while some might be closer to home, they will be playing the same game of basketball in completely unfamiliar territory.

Tre Williams was first to sign a pro contract after three seasons with the Dukes, and opted to stay after his first season in which Duquesne finished 6-24. A

high-character player credited for changing the culture of the program, the 6'7" forward was mostly used for defensive purposes in his final season. He'll take those talents to QSTA United in the small Dutch town of Bemmelen to play the best the Netherlands and Belgium have to offer. Time will tell if his father, Rick, will come along and continue his tradition of sitting courtside for Tre's games in QSTA's 650-seat gym.

Jimmy Clark III was instrumental to the team in his two seasons on the Bluff. The guard started 69 games, including a program record 37 out of 37 in 2023-24. He averaged 13.7 points and played stellar defense to go along with it, earning his way onto the All-Atlantic 10 Defensive Team both years. Clark will be heading to Israel, where he'll try to invigorate Bnei Herzliya of the Israeli Premier League the same way he did Duquesne.

Dusan Mahorcic moved to the U.S. before his sophomore year of high school; now, after spending time at five different

NCAA schools, the Serbian will return to Europe. In his 26 games with Duquesne, his job seemed to change in every one, but he started in all four A-10 Tournament games and used his 6'10" frame to keep opponents away from the bucket. Mahorcic will be joining Enosis Neon Paralimni of Cyprus.

Andrei Savrasov's role in his only year with the Dukes dwindled as the season went on, but he was a catalyst in the non-conference games that helped Duquesne reach 25 wins. He started out playing in his hometown of Saint Petersburg in Russia with BC Zenit in the VTB United League, before embarking to America for stints with Texas Tech, Georgia Southern and Duquesne. Now, Savrasov will return to his native country, where he'll suit up for BC Irkut Irkutsk in Russia's second-tier league. Even so, it's not exactly a homecoming, as Irkutsk is farther away from Saint Petersburg than Pittsburgh is to Los Angeles.

Other graduating members of the 2024

Dukes team, such as Dae Dae Grant or the Drame twins, Fousseyni and Hassan, have yet to announce future plans despite their prolific college careers. But wherever they end up, they and the rest of their former teammates can do something no other Duquesne player who went pro could in the past 47 years: bring a championship mentality to their new teams.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS
Jimmy Clark and Tre Williams are two of last year's Dukes heading overseas.

Hansen: Steelers set to break .500 again

AUSTIN HANSEN
staff writer

Weather is changing and a slight breeze is in the air, and most importantly for Pittsburgh Steelers fans, pro football in the city of Pittsburgh is right around the corner. The 2024 season is one that many Steeler fans are eagerly waiting for in hopes of success, yet the Steel City, along with many other Steelers faithful around the world, know this season is a potential turning point for better or worse. With a roster featuring a mix of seasoned veterans, emerging stars and in my opinion many question marks, this season promises to be both exciting and challenging for Steeler Nation.

The Steelers are coming off a tumultuous season with a 10-7 regular season record, finishing third in the AFC North and losing to the Buffalo Bills by a score of 31-17 in a historically weather-impacted Wild Card Weekend game. Though that may be an impressive record on paper, many fans believe the Steelers organization is complacent with the idea of mediocrity. Furthermore, some Steelers fans are unhappy with the signing of Head Coach Mike Tomlin to a three-year contract extension, keeping Tomlin in Pittsburgh through at least the 2027 season, wondering why this idea of mediocrity is okay.

I, on the other hand, categorize myself as a fan of Tomlin because of his ability to win in situations where the team may not be superior to the opponent. In one-score games, I think Tomlin coaches the Steelers toward a win better than many other coaches. In fact, of the 17 games last season, the Steelers found themselves in 11 games decided by one possession and managed a 9-2 record in them. Does the much-parroted talking point of Tomlin never having a losing season in his 17 year coaching tenure get annoying at times? Yes. But is it

something no other veteran coach in the NFL can come close to saying? Also, yes. Coaching comes down to the schemes and strategies that build a foundation for a successful ball club. The Steelers have a foundation like no other, and it is one that General Manager Omar Khan is ready to capitalize on in his third season at the helm.

Khan was more active this offseason than any Steelers GM has been in the past, making enough moves to the point where only six and seven starters are returning to the offense and defense, respectively. It's a strategy that may help the Steelers get to the next level in the long haul, but one that I believe may leave a few more upset reactions out of the crowds of 80,000-plus at Acrisure Stadium this fall than desired.

The 2024 NFL Draft found the Steelers drafting tackle Troy Fautanu out of Washington with their first-round pick at 20th overall, and center Zach Frazier out of West Virginia in the second round at 51st. Both Fautanu and Frazier are slated to be starters on Pittsburgh's revamped offensive line.

The draft wasn't the only way the Steelers bolstered their roster, as Khan went out in free agency and signed Pro Bowl outside linebacker Patrick Queen, a huge win not only for the Steelers but to take away from rival Baltimore, even if he was priced out of the Ravens defense. Additionally, Khan extended veteran DT Cameron Heyward.

Of all offseason changes, perhaps the most dramatic is the complete overhaul of the quarterback room. The Steelers signed Russell Wilson and were able to trade with Chicago for Justin Fields. Both are on team-friendly deals. The other notable on-field offensive change came from the trade with Carolina, which resulted in the Steelers shipping out receiver Diontae

Johnson and getting cornerback Donte Jackson in return.

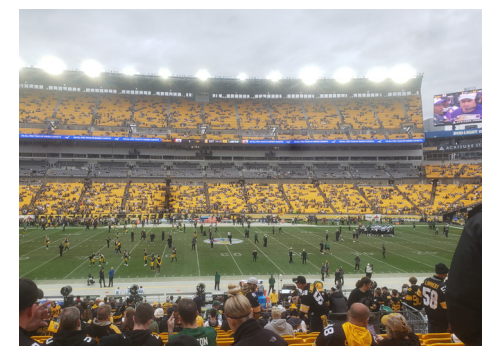
The QB battle between Wilson and Fields was one Steeler fans were very invested in and a difficult one for Tomlin. Waiting until after the preseason ended, Tomlin decided to go with the more consistent and proven option in Wilson. Wilson has thrown for over 3,000 yards in each of his 12 seasons in the NFL, although if things get rocky early in the season it would not surprise me if Fields gets an early look.

There's also a new face at offensive coordinator, as the Steelers hired former Atlanta Head Coach Arthur Smith after he spent three seasons leading the Falcons to a 7-10 record in each one. To the average fan, the record may not sit well, along with the No. 17 offense in total yards and No. 26 in scoring, but Steelers fans must be reminded his job in Pittsburgh lies solely as the offensive coordinator. Smith's step down in the hierarchy of NFL coaching positions gives him a look at success that he is more familiar with. Before being hired in Atlanta, Smith was Tennessee's OC in the 2019 and 2020 seasons where the Titans had an explosive offense led by superstars Derrick Henry and A.J. Brown, and finished top-five in most offensive categories both years.

While the offensive weapons may be unproven and in unfamiliar territory in Pittsburgh, I believe Smith will be able to give this offense a better chance than many others would expect out of him when looking at the Steelers on paper. The offense will look to benefit from Smith's ability to scheme the run game utilizing both Najee Harris and Jaylen Warren. I would also expect to see a breakout season from both tight end Pat Freiermuth and even the rest of the TE room, as Smith loves to get as many tight end pieces involved as possible, especially downfield.

The Steelers defense has been the backbone of the organization for years, and I think this year the trend should continue. Last season the Steelers had a plus-11 turnover differential which was third in the league, and they return once again former Defensive Player of the Year T.J. Watt. Along with him, Queen, Heyward and Alex Highsmith, the front seven is going to be a threat to opposing teams, and with a secondary including Joey Porter Jr. in his second year, newcomer Jackson and safety Minkah Fitzpatrick, defensive coordinator Teryl Austin is in good hands.

This season will not be an easy one, especially with the back half of the schedule including all of the usual tough AFC North games plus the back-to-back weeks with the two-time defending champion Chiefs and the always-dangerous Eagles. The offense is the biggest question mark within the roster, but with proper scheme from Smith and the expected consistencies from Wilson the team might be able to figure it out. The scare comes if the offense comes out to a slow start, and in this instance, I would expect Fields to make a high-upside opportunity. Though the division will be a warzone, I believe that this team will at best be a .500 team once again, finishing at 9-8, but continuing Tomlin's streak.



MICHAEL O'GRADY | SPORTS EDITOR

MSOC 3-0 after shutout of Musketeers

REBECCA JOZWIAK
staff writer

The Duquesne men's soccer team defeated the Xavier Musketeers, 1-0, on Sunday at Corcoran Field in Cincinnati. Until the last 10 minutes of gameplay, the contest was in a scoreless deadlock until redshirt sophomore Jaxon Ervin opened and closed the scoring with 9:24 left on the clock. His goal would turn out to be the only one Duquesne needed to secure the victory.

The win continues the Dukes's 3-0 undefeated streak to open their season in Head Coach Chase Brooks's 12th year

with the team, and it came against a Xavier team that had shocked No. 2 Marshall, 2-0, on Thursday night. In recent years, Brooks has found early-season success with the Dukes, as they have gone 3-0 to start their season in two of the last three years.

A large part of the recent success that Brooks and his team have experienced are thanks to essential players returning to the team, such as forward Maxi Hopfer.

Hopfer is in form early on in his fourth season on the Bluff: he had the assist for Ervin's goal and has scored four points over Duquesne's first three games. The Austrian forward continues to build his

legacy at Duquesne, as he ranks eighth in goals and ninth in points on Duquesne's all-time list.

For much of the game, he wasn't a factor, however, as Xavier showed more aggression on their offense than the Dukes did: the Musketeers attempted thirteen shots and nine corner kicks throughout the match compared to Duquesne's two shots and two corners. It was Duquesne goalkeeper Zoltan Nagy who kept the Musketeers in check, as he enjoyed yet another dominant start. He made saves on all six of the Musketeers' shots on goal.

Nagy, a senior, earned his first shutout on the season, lowering his goals against average to 0.80. He earned recognition as the Atlantic-10 Conference Defensive Player of the Week for his performance.

The script would flip in the second half, as Xavier took all of their shots in the first half, with no attempts made to score on Nagy afterward. Both teams meandered offensively, and it looked like the match was destined to end in a scoreless draw until Ervin's goal.

While Ervin, who leads the team with two goals after scoring against Canisius last Sunday, earned his second goal of the season as Hopfer earned his second assist, players off the Duquesne bench also

contributed to Nagy's shutout. Graduate forward Jack Rhead played in 67 minutes of the match, while senior defender Jack Emanuel also came off of the bench, playing for 41 minutes.

Freshmen and transfers are also making contributions to the team. Freshman forward Roni Badler and transfer Blaize Hardy earned their first career starts with Duquesne. Hardy, a redshirt sophomore, spent his first two years of eligibility at VCU, where he helped win the 2023 A-10 Championship.

The Dukes look to extend their undefeated streak to four when they face Niagara at Rooney Field on Thursday.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS
Jaxon Ervin scored the lone goal for Duquesne.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OLIVER THOMAS

Duquesne's Jesper Moksnes hassles Xavier's Ishmael Mensah as he breaks into the Dukes' half.

Phipps raises awareness for water pollution

EMILY FRITZ & VIRGINIA GUERRA SALDIVAR
a&e editor & staff writer

When visitors first enter Palm Court, they are met with a blanket of humidity and immersed by 12 blue jellyfish overhead made from three-times reused ribbon, alluding to the theme of this summer's flower show at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens: 'Under the Sea.'

"For such a fun theme ... I had a whole list of plants in my head that I've been kind of building up and inventorying over the years," said Phipps Associate Director of Exhibits Jordyn Melino. "Some of my favorites are Alocasia Stingray, which is in our Victorian room ... and there's a plant called String of Turtles, which is a Peperomia and it's a very, very tiny plant."

As visitors venture through different rooms, they are met with a variety of unique plant life – some named after underwater creatures, like the golden shrimp plant – fish-themed ceramics and statues made from upcycled foliage.

A pair of walruses, named after Fred and Joanne Rogers, have tusks crafted from carved-out palm leaf stems and flippers made from Staghorn fern and dried fronds.

Aside from saving money on recycled decor, the exhibition staff wanted to showcase the power of sustainability and the creativity involved in reclaimed materials, according to Melino.

"Even though we are [landlocked] here in Pittsburgh or in our region, our rivers connect us to the ocean. So what we put in the rivers ... ultimately flows into the ocean," she explained.

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, "plastic waste makes up 80% of all marine pollution and around eight to 10 million metric tons of plastic end up in the ocean each year."

Carnegie Mellon University student Lifan Yu visited the flower show earlier this season.

"I actually noticed this little



EMILY FRITZ | A&E EDITOR

Touch points, like the button in Broderie Room, enabled visitors to create movement in the exhibit. In the display picture above, guests could press a button, causing the giant clam shell to open and reveal a faux pearl.

river model of the three rivers in one of the rooms," Yu told *The Duke*. "It sort of hinted that ... plastic waste in the ocean [is] harming all the fishes."

As an international student, Yu explained that the U.S. is much more careless in its treatment of waste compared to Shanghai, where she completed her undergrad. In other areas of the world, bins are color-coded, allowing the public to recycle more efficiently.



EMILY FRITZ | A&E EDITOR

The fictional "Globglowpus," is "afraid of the dark," according to creator Poet, 10, and uses a glowing antenna to see in deep waters.

"I'm just not used to putting all trash into one bin. It just doesn't feel right," Yu added.

For others, like artist Sayaka Ganz, trash is the gateway for creative reuse.

Ganz works with many different types of plastics to create her art, gravitating toward objects like broken toys, patio furniture and common household items such as coat hangers. The majority of the materials she works with are found in other people's trash or on the side of the street.

Ganz contributed her 16-foot whale sculpture, 'Nanami,' to Phipps for the marine-themed event. Built from plastic objects, hardware, painted aluminum armature and cable ties, Ganz wanted to inspire visitors to reflect on the underwater ecosystem.

"[Plastic] is terrible for the environment," Ganz said. "On the consumer level, we are asked to recycle. But what we really need is to produce less, you know, and it's not really helping you not to vilify what's already out there, because we've created what's already out there."

Ahead of the flower show's debut, local students in grades 2 through 12 were invited to partake in creative upcycling through the Fairchild Sea Creature Challenge.

As an exercise in environmental thinking, the students had to create their own fictional creatures using materials that were already owned or re-used. Moreover, they were required to supply information about how their sea creature was related to real-life organisms and would adapt to its surroundings underwater.

Among the gallery creations was a squid and octopus, creatively called a "Squink." Born from cardboard, newspaper, bubble wrap and leftover beads from Taylor Swift bracelets, the mythical sea creature was created by a group of 11th graders from Mars Area High School.

'Under the Sea' summer flower show ends on Sept. 22 as Phipps prepares for its fall flower show, 'Rhythm and Blooms,' beginning on Oct. 5. Student discounts are available with a valid ID and can be purchased online at www.phippsconservatory.org.

"You really have to get people to care first about what they see in front of them," Melino said. "Wow them with an amazing show to get them to care about what they see when they're here at the garden. ... And then, take home [that] message of, 'how can I be a part of this moving forward?'"

campus events

Lab Coat Customization
Sept. 5 @ 9 p.m.

Join oSTEM in the NiteSpot to decorate your lab coat or Tshirt with iron-on patches.

DPC DUNite: Bingo
Sept. 6 @ 9 p.m.

Head to the Africa Room on the 3rd Floor of the Union for prizes and great company.

Sippin' and Paintin'
Sept. 7 @ 9 p.m.

Gamma Sigma Sigma is hosting a night of mocktails and painting at the Nitespot!

Duquesne Night Student Pirates Game
Sept. 10 @ 6:40 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now in Union 305. Attendees will receive a co-branded Pirates/Duquesne baseball hat!

Cupcakes for a Cause
Sept. 9 @ 11 a.m.

Support Kappa Epsilon's bake sale and raise money for breast and ovarian cancer research and awareness.

emily's epiphanies

Make Mistakes

I hope you make a mistake today. Not because I want to see you fail, but because I want to see you learn.

At the root of striving for perfection, should be your best effort and your sincere desire to make a positive impact through the work that you do.

But failing to remember that we are each multi-faceted, inherently faulted individuals is where the unhealthy obsession with flawlessness does each of us a disservice.

For every time that you mess up, make the wrong decision using best judgment or have to set some aspect of overextension on hold, it is an opportunity to grow into a person who identifies the boundaries of their being and accepts that they are imperfect.

If we never experienced difficulty, disappointment or despair, we could never learn to appreciate our small wins, our growing pains or an outpouring of authenticity.

— Emily Fritz

Aquarius ♒

Black belt at karaoke.

Pisces ♓

That mortifying ordeal of being known by 20,000 bees.

Aries ♈

I imagine that that is what it feels like to pet your internal organs.

Taurus ♉

Seafood buffet?! Sounds like...diarrhea.

Gemini ♊

He's gonna lose it when it's June.

Cancer ♋

Spencer's chest hair will grow in the shape of the Bat Signal.

Leo ♌

She's getting married and I'm getting deported.

Virgo ♍

And THAT is why this girl rocks harder than Pop Rocks.

Libra ♎

Meg?

Scorpio ♏

If I got fired via Beatles parody, I fear I'd go insane.

Sagittarius ♐

Well it depends, did she write a book or invent the clapper?

Capricorn ♑

When you say that, it makes me feel like my skin has spiders in it.

Night Market connects local artists with new audiences

EMBER DUKE
layout editor

Despite the drizzles of rain, Squirrel Hill's Murray Avenue flooded with people Saturday night, the air filled with music and the competing smells of food trucks. The Squirrel Hill Night Market had set up camp for the evening.

Tents lined either side of the road welcoming patrons into the world of Pittsburgh's craft scene. The market is a showcase for local artists, artisans and business owners to share their work with the public.

Jamison Juda-Combs, membership and events director and creative strategist for Uncover Squirrel Hill, one of the companies that runs the event, said the aim is to promote the community in a casual way. Many familiar Squirrel Hill store-fronts, like Aiello's Pizza, Steal City Vintage and Orange Avocado Juicery participate alongside vendors who travel to the event.

"We love that every single time that we have a night market, it's such a chance for folks to reconnect with their neighbors and to meet each other," Juda-Combs said. "It's also built a sense of community among the artists

and crafters and different merchants that are there ... it gets our business owners to participate. It's another chance for them to connect, kind of outside of their brick and mortar store and really get to know each other as well."

Juda-Combs said the event usually averages 1,500 visitors,



EMBER DUKE | LAYOUT EDITOR

In addition to local artisans, larger brands also attended the Squirrel Hill Night Market, including the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile.

and many vendors sell out by the end of the night.

"The goal is to bring people into the neighborhood, have them uncover a new favorite restaurant, favorite store and really uncover how great Squirrel Hill is, and help people gain exposure

to the neighborhood," he said.

For Alex and Emmalee McMullen of Alex's Stupid Studio, an artist couple who specialize in screen printing and embroidering apparel out of their apartment, the market is an opportunity to see familiar faces and cultivate new interest for

media and website to get people excited," Alex McMullen said. "Whereas here we can take stuff we've made for a long time, and people that we've never met can have a fresh reaction to it."

As returning vendors, they have noticed a small uptick in local orders after attending the market.

"This is one of the few events that we go to all the time. So it's just like, it feels kind of like our home ... It's run well, with a good potential to make money," McMullen said.

Local fine artist Erin Auses also said the festival draws attention to her work, even post-event. Her business Cityhopper Studios is focused on detailed drawings of cityscapes which she then reproduces as prints.

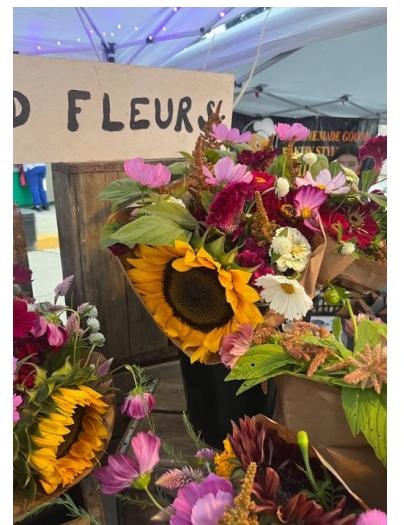
"I specialize in pen and ink, architectural portraits," Auses said. "It's more getting the word out about the art. I also do architectural portrait commissions and house portraits. So I do end up getting a lot of business after the fact, with people taking my cards, seeing what I can do here, and then commissioning a portrait."

In the whirl of clay, bright textiles and paint, patrons stopped to enjoy the night's atmosphere.

Live music from local artists poured from the small stage on Darlington Avenue Clusters of patrons formed around the warmth of food trucks, sitting on curbs to enjoy food from the Pittsburgh Pierogie truck, Patti's Pastries and other treats.

For Juda-Combs, the Squirrel Hill Night Market is about building a closer community.

"Really, over the years ... a lot of the artists and crafters have become friends," he said.



EMBER DUKE | LAYOUT EDITOR

Alongside traditional market produce were seasonal flowers offered by Tiny Seed Farm and Fleurs. Offerings will differ to reflect what is available.

Warhol Museum uses 'Pop District' to improve North Shore

EMILY FRITZ
& **EMILY HOFFMANN**
a&e editor & staff writer

Disembarking from the North Side T-station, visitors are met with the harsh overpass of the highway and a vast desert of parking lots, drawing attention away from scattered venues such as PNC Park, Acrisure Stadium or Stage AE.

The Warhol Museum, just half of a mile away from the light rail station, is moving into the next phase of their 10-year development project called The Pop District.

The goal of The Pop District is to transform the five-block radius around the museum into an inviting third space, rich with green areas and



EBBIE BERRY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Visitors Austin Gunniers (left) and Brett Jordan (right) recreated a screen test from a docuseries at The Warhol.

free offerings.

'Final Fridays,' a summer event occurring on the last Friday of each month, is an attempt by The Warhol Museum to expand its reach horizontally. To set the scene for guests, the event included a live DJ, outdoor lighting and a rainbow mural backdrop, completed in 2021 by artist Typoe.

The event has attracted a diverse crowd since its first season in 2021, from business people to city creatives, allowing 'Final Fridays' to open opportunities for networking and collaboration.

"So if someone's coming out of the museum or just walking across the bridge to go to a baseball game, they can say, 'Oh, wait. I can come into this thing,'" explained Byron Nash, Community Engagement & Events Coordinator at The Pop District, "and then they end up networking, meeting a lot of people that they probably wouldn't meet."

As it stands currently, the North Shore is devoid of many multi-experience opportunities.

Former Carnegie Museum member Disa Weinheimer brought her family to The Warhol on Friday to enjoy the outdoor space and the El Sabor Latin Kitchen food truck while they entertained friends from out-of-town.

Weinheimer told *The Duke* that her family visits other Pittsburgh neighborhoods more frequently, such as

Lawrenceville or The Strip.

"On the North Shore, it's just food, or just the parks, the stadiums, [the] bars," she said. "If you're going there for restaurants or you're going there for an event, great. But otherwise, ... we wouldn't go down there."

Now, with the expansion of The Warhol's Pop District, Weinheimer's family is less reluctant to return.

"We kind of worked to make [Silver Street] more pedestrian friendly, and pedestrian only. We obviously painted it silver, referencing Warhol in the 60s and [Warhol's] 'Silver Factory,'" said Senior Director of Performing Arts and Programming Ben Harrison.

During the final installment of 'Final Fridays' on Aug. 30, the event had to move into the museum's lobby area to accommodate rainy weather. Weinheimer said that their party did not originally intend to explore The Warhol, but that her family felt more drawn to explore once inside.

The Weinheimer family weren't the only people who gravitated to Warhol history during the 'Final Friday' event. DJ Alex Rivera, who had never been to the Warhol Museum before, watched a 4-hour documentary about Warhol to prepare for his set.

"The main thing that stuck with me was there was this one quote where [Warhol] said, 'Don't think about making art, just get it done. Let everyone else decide if it's good or bad,



EBBIE BERRY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

In a pivotal move to make The Pop District more welcoming, the museum eliminated a parking lot to install an outdoor statue and mural, featuring a collaboration with KAWS.

whether they love it or hate it.' So I took that into my preparation for The Warhol."

Rivera decided to play one of his favorite songs, "Astral Plane" by Flying Lotus, which consists of muted vocals and a unique instrumentation. "I think Andy Warhol himself would have been impressed."

Similarly, museum employee and fellowship mentor Sarah Schuck said that she has found artistic freedom at The Warhol, dotingly referring to the deceased artist as "Uncle Andy."

In The Pop District, opportunities exist in the form of a creative fellowship, youth workforce, an accred-

ited digital marketing diploma and workshops.

Although 'Final Fridays' has reached the end of its 2024 run, The Warhol will continue to offer future events in the museum and the surrounding Pop District. The next installment of the "Sound Series," an initiative created by Harrison during his 20 year tenure, will take place on Oct. 14 with guitarist Jake Xerxes Fussell.

Harrison explained that the offerings at The Warhol create a "cross pollination" of the arts, describing the programming as "this extension of the museum ... making it perhaps even more accessible."

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"I don't think people
look at how pop stars
live and feel anything
aspirational at all."

Lorde

You just read | Now tweet
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Sabrina Carpenter performing live in Los Angeles, 2016.

COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Carpenter makes waves with new album "Short n' Sweet"

REBECCA JOZWIAK

staff writer

Sabrina Carpenter first made waves back in 2009 at just nine years old when she posted cover of Taylor Swift's "Picture to Burn" onto YouTube.

Carpenter started her career as an actor in 2011 when she was featured in a Season 12 episode of "Law & Order."

Afterwards Carpenter scored one of her most iconic roles to date – Maya Hart in the reboot of "Boy Meets World." She would go on to star in a handful of films while releasing four albums over the span of four years.

Carpenter released her first four albums contractually under Disney's Hollywood Records. In 2021, she turned a new leaf, signing with Island Records and releasing what she called her first "big girl" album in 2022: "Emails I Can't Send."

The album, featuring songs such as "Nonsense" and "Feather" gained attention in the mainstream pop industry, with both songs charting on the *Billboard 200*.

Riding off the success of those two songs, she began a new era in April when she released "Espresso," the lead song off her then unreleased album, "Short n' Sweet." Written by Carpenter, Amy Allen, Julian Bunetta and Steph Jones, "Espresso" incorporates a beach-like instrumental into a song laced with flirty lyrics, creating an instant summer anthem.

"Espresso" quickly introduces the chorus, instantly reeling listeners in with an unforgettable hook.

Her bubbly yet relatable personality, paired with her honest song-writing, is why Carpenter continues to skyrocket in success and relevance. According to Medium, 75% of Carpenter's demographic are women, with most listeners between the ages of 18 and 24. Since its release, "Espresso" has spent 19 consecutive weeks on *Billboard's Hot 100*, hitting a peak of No. 3 on the chart. On the *Global 200* chart, the song peaked at No. 1 while also staying 19 weeks in

the rankings.

Carpenter's roll out continued to elevate her artistry and aesthetic with the release of her second single, "Please Please Please." Produced by Bleachers lead vocalist, Jack Antonoff, "Please Please Please" plays innocently coy while simultaneously informing a lover that they cannot ruin the relationship they are currently in with Carpenter. Her straightforwardness is expressed in the song, as she sings "Well I have a fun idea babe / Maybe just stay inside."

The music video for her second single masterfully kept the anticipation for the release of "Short n' Sweet." Starring her boyfriend, actor Barry Keoghan, the couple navigates life as Keoghan's character is swept into a life of crime, despite Carpenter's pleas. Eventually, Carpenter brings Keoghan back home from yet another jail stay, stranding him in a warehouse with duct tape over his mouth.

Keoghan's appearance in the video is another highlight of this project. Despite her character's apparent clueless nature, Carpenter makes it clear through her lyrics and visuals that her reputation will not be jeopardized as she navigates short and sweet relationships; hence the name of the album, according to an interview with Zane Lowe for Apple Music.

"Short n' Sweet" finally arrived into the world on Aug. 23. Sporting 12 songs, the album starts off with a pop rock song entitled "Taste." Carpenter sings about her taste being left in the mouth of an ex-lover: "Every time you close your eyes / And feel his lips, you're feelin' mine / And every time you breathe his air / Just know I was already there."

"Taste" is the third single off of the album, further creating buzz, thanks to the music video that stars fellow actress Jenna Ortega. Ortega depicts the current lover of Carpenter's ex-fling; in the music video, which alludes to films such as "Death Becomes

Her" and "Kill Bill: Volume 1."

"Short n' Sweet" highlights how underrated Carpenter's character is as a businesswoman: two out of her three music videos feature a significant figure within the entertainment industry, while her lyricism and advertising are full of double entendres. Carpenter understands that the spotlight is currently on her, and continuously plays chess with the appearances and content that surround her album. While listeners continue to contribute to her success on social media, Carpenter is right there beside them, carefully noting the wants and needs of her fanbase – and most importantly, the constantly-evolving realm of pop culture.

As the album progresses, we see Carpenter's relationships fizzle out. On track five, "Coincidence," she hints at the fact that her now-ex was not over his last relationship, as the topic begins to be brought up more and more; suddenly, Carpenter's 'situation-ship' finds himself back with his ex, who seemingly knew how to get back into his life: "Last week, you didn't have any doubts / This week, you're holdin' space for her tongue in your mouth / Now she's sendin' you some pictures wearin' less and less."

"Coincidence" seems to fill fans in on Carpenter's relationship prior to Keoghan. The singer was spotted with fellow artist Shawn Mendes on numerous occasions in the beginning of 2023, until he was spotted with on-and-off ex Camila Cabello at Coachella.

"Short n' Sweet" awaits a No. 1 high-charting debut. The number one spot for the *Global 200* is challenged by Travis Scott's "Days Before Rodeo," released as a ten year anniversary ode to Scott's original 2014 album with the same name. With *Billboard's* tracking week coming to an end, "Short n' Sweet" is bound to have commercial success if it can overcome the resurgence of the now-reunited Oasis and Scott's anniversary album, as long as fans continue to sip from Carpenter's "me" espresso.

staff
editorial

New media needs a standard

It's no secret that media outlets and news organizations are still getting their footing on new age social media platforms like TikTok, but with a new medium there needs to be a standard and it cannot include ridiculous engagement boosting schemes.

Social media platforms give reporters an opportunity to engage with younger audiences and keep up with emerging modes which people consume news. However, media networks need to be careful of what elements of social media culture to participate in.

Doug Sharpe, a TikTok creator with over 886,000 followers on his account, under the handle "Dougiesharpe," makes short videos mirroring traditional newscasts.

Sharpe has racked up over 98 million likes and has been making TikTok videos since 2021.

In a video posted last Wednesday, Sharpe shared a video about popular fast food chain Chick-fil-A possibly launching a new streaming network. The video is 58 seconds long and garnered over 105,000 views since its posting.

While the video was successful in overall viewage the comment section reveals a different story.

During the video Sharpe continuously mispronounced the name of the restaurant which, if you open up the comment section, revealed that the mispronunciation led to an overwhelming amount of comments ridiculing Sharpe's speech.

This tactic is called "rage baiting" which is when people make outlandish claims or comments that they know a majority of people will dislike or become angry about on social media platforms. With a similar sentiment to P.T. Barnum's quote, "There's no such thing as bad publicity," the tactic draws comments and drives engagement because people get upset.

Sharpe does not claim to be a journalist on any of his accounts or platforms, but the TikTok talent is known for his "fun fact" videos which focus on sharing a quick news story. The videos include many elements of a traditional newscast including b-roll and screenshot images of news stories sourcing the information.

While saying "Chickfulla" instead of "Chick-fil-A" may seem harmless and potentially help boost viewership and draw engagement to Sharpe's page, it is an excellent example of what professional reporters should not be doing.

If an established Pittsburgh media company such as TribLive or the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette were to post the same video including the "Chickfulla" blunder, then general audiences would lose confidence and respect for the news outlet.

Imagine if the local paper misspelled a keyword in its headline or purposely shared incorrect information— the result would be incredibly harmful to the reader's understanding.

Taking advantage of TikTok trends can help boost viewership by humanizing reporters and publishing from the field, but it can also dismantle positive public opinion and trust if not used properly. Not every trend maintains journalism ethics and not every trend will boost engagement for the right reasons.

Accounting for the rise in political tension

ELIYAHU GASSON
opinions editor

It was less than two months ago that Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump faced an assassination attempt in Butler County, less than 45 miles north of Pittsburgh.

For a few short weeks, the attempt on Trump's life became a major talking point, with Republicans and Democrats quickly condemning political violence and calling for unity between the parties. Trump supporters were quick to point fingers at Democrats for stoking the shooter.

"The Republican Party District Attorney in Butler County, PA, should immediately file charges against Joseph R. Biden for inciting an assassination," Rep. Mike Collins, R-Ga., posted to X, formerly known as Twitter. U.S. Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., wrote "Democrats and liberals in the media have called Trump a fascist. They've compared him to Hitler. They've tried to lock him up ... This isn't some unfortunate incident. This was an assassination attempt by a madman inspired by the rhetoric of the radical left."

It turns out that Thomas Crooks was a political anomaly. He donated \$15 to the left-wing Progressive Turnout Project in 2021 using the service ActBlue, when he was 17-years-old. Later that year, he would register to vote as a Republican.

According to FBI deputy director Paul Abbate, a social media account that was believed to have belonged to Crooks included comments that "appear to reflect



COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
Joe Biden called for a calming of political rhetoric following the assassination attempt on Donald Trump.

antisemitic and anti-immigration themes."

Nobody can know exactly what Crooks wanted to achieve by killing Trump.

Crooks "conducted more than 60 searches related to President Biden and former President Trump," according to FBI Pittsburgh Field Office Special Agent-in-Charge Kevin Rojek.

"He looked at any number of events or targets," Rojek said. "[When] the Trump rally was announced early in July, he became hyper-focused on that specific event and looked at it as a target of opportunity."

No one can tell if Crooks had a motive. The closest anyone has come is that he was looking for an opportunity to inflict violence at some presidential rally.

Why then do Republicans think that it's on Democrats to lower the

temperature on political discourse?

Republicans cry about Trump's felony cases. They insist that they are political persecution from the left. They aren't, Trump was found guilty by a jury of his peers of falsification of business records. It was also Donald Trump and his supporters who chanted "lock her up" about Hillary Clinton in 2016.

Republicans cry about Trump losing the 2020 election to Joe Biden. They continue to push this narrative despite Trump ally after Trump ally testifying in depositions that Trump and his cronies tried to muck up the electoral college with false slates of electors in multiple states. The plan was to have then Vice President Mike Pence count the false certificates rather than the authentic cer-

tificates, resulting in a Trump victory.

When Pence refused to go along with the scheme the coup fell apart. This made Trump mad. So he stoked his supporters into storming the U.S. Capitol building. They chanted "hang Mike Pence, hang Mike Pence," for about six hours, only leaving when Trump put out a tweet asking his supporters to "go home in peace."

Kenneth Chesboro, a Trump campaign legal advisor and mastermind of the false elector scheme, pleaded guilty in Georgia to conspiracy to commit false documents in a plea deal in 2023.

There is no evidence that anyone rigged the 2020 election in Biden's favor.

Republicans whinge and moan and accuse Democrats of doing things that Republicans are themselves guilty of. It is their side of the political isle that has spoiled honest political discourse. Republicans and people who hold right-wing beliefs are more likely to commit political violence than those on the left.

A 2022 study from the University of Maryland analyzed instances of political violence using two datasets, one covering the years of 1948-2018 and another between the years of 1970-2017.

"Our results are in line with past research showing that conservative ideology ... is positively related to violent political behavior," the study found. "These results support the view that left-wing and right-wing extremists are not equivalent when it comes to the use of violence."

If it should be the responsibility of any one side to lower the temperature, it should be on conservatives.

Addressing Pittsburgh's live music problem

JULIA HALVAS
staff writer

As the sun begins to set and the week comes to a close, the lights of PPG Paints Arena, PNC Park and Acrisure Stadium begin to come on and the residents of Pittsburgh begin to flood the entrances with anticipation for the live music they've paid to see ... though not as often as they should.

With Pittsburgh being a well known city, and the world slowly returning back to normalcy, why are artists and events choosing to skip over the City of Bridges?

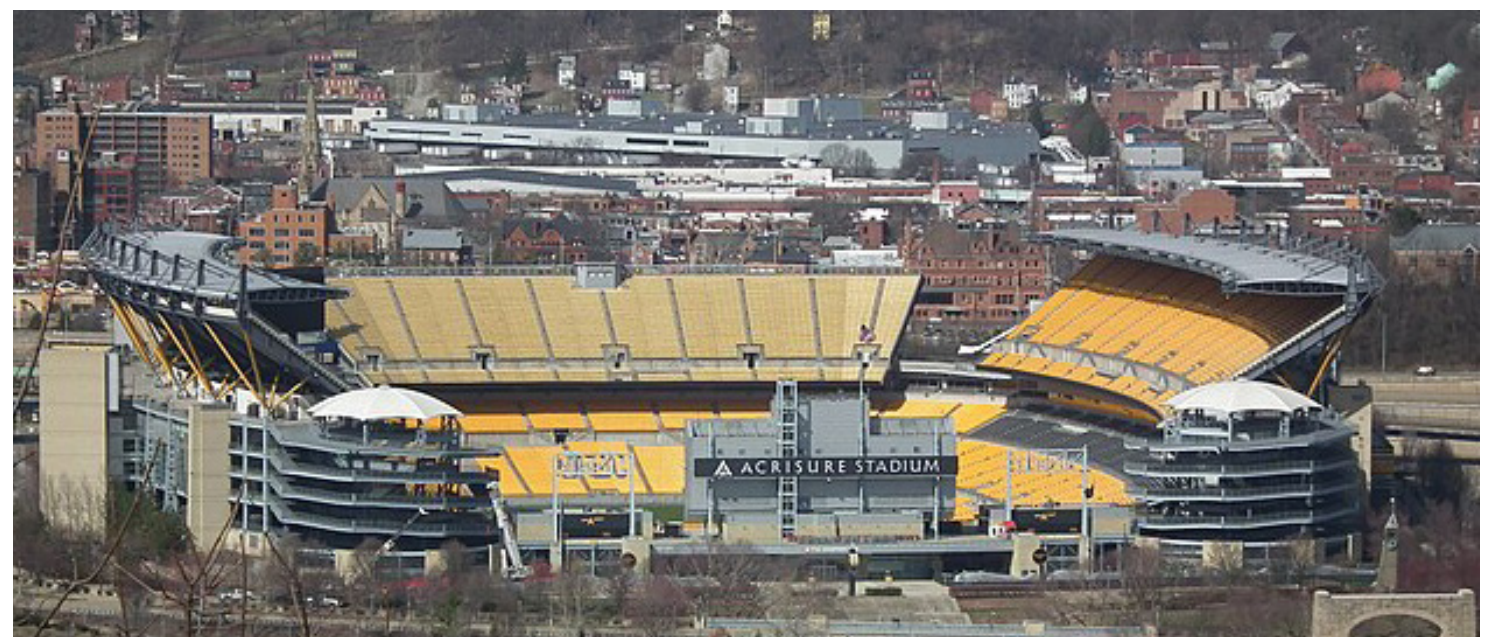
Cost is the biggest factor. In Pittsburgh, consumers are required to pay a 3% amusement tax on tickets for live shows and concerts.

This tax raises the price of tickets for the consumer, acting as a deterrent, leading to fewer sales and empty arena seats.

Large artists like Taylor Swift can guarantee a full audience, despite the amusement tax. However, slightly more obscure artists have a harder time justifying booking shows, especially in a midsized market like Pittsburgh when a near equal sized city like Cleveland is so close.

In other cities, like Portland, an amusement tax does not even exist. These types of cities are very enticing to not only performers, but ticket buyers as well.

A common thing for artists to do now is to skip over Pittsburgh and only do shows in Philadelphia. Even though the amusement tax is the same in both cities, artists can pull in more of an audience in Philadelphia because the population there is around 1.5 million, compared to Pittsburgh which is around 302,898.



COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
Aside from hosting the Steelers and Pitt Panthers football teams, Acrisure stadium serves as a venue for live concerts, including Taylor Swifts Eras Tour visit last year.

But cost isn't everything, there are social standards that cause artists to skip over certain cities. Many cities like Los Angeles, New York and Cleveland have stronger music reputations than Pittsburgh.

Going to a more predominantly "music city" will entice people to come see the shows and that helps performers profit. It also helps the flow of ticket sales, something that has been a problem in Pittsburgh. For smaller and newer artists who may not have the pull to sell out a venue and overcome the 3% hit they will take, such an impairment may deter them from this city.

Scheduled for Sept. 7-8, the Sudden Little Thrills music festival, that was supposed to bring in top performers like SZA, was canceled. Even though the production company C3, which also puts on music festivals like Lollapalooza, did not formally come out with a statement, many people are speculating the real reason as to why it was canceled.

According to many Instagram and Reddit posts from many angry ticket buyers, they believe the cause of the cancellation has to do with the flow of ticket sales. Many claim that pricing was not matched correctly to the quality of the lineup for

the show. This caused a lot of potential buyers to steer away from the festival.

As the city begins to rebuild after the pandemic, the arts try to as well. Even though many smaller artists, festivals and shows do not come around Pittsburgh as much anymore, the city is still alive with music and entertainment to some degree.

Even though the lights may dim throughout the city's venues, they do not go out completely. Every so often, you can catch a famous performer, or a show providing Pittsburghers with great entertainment.

One man's trash is another man's cat

JOSH IMHOF
staff writer

Stray cats roam all through the country, populating rural areas and cities. They can be found hiding under decks, drinking from fountains or in dumpsters behind apartment buildings.

More than 60 million homeless cats live in the United States, according to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

Among this large population, diseases are rampant. Because of this, many of these cats live short and uncomfortable lives.

According to their website, Trash Cat Rescue is a nonprofit foster-based cat rescue that serves the greater Pittsburgh area. Their mission is to reduce the suffering of sick, scared or undersocialized cats.

The organization was founded by friends Alysa McNearney and Danielle Walendziewicz in 2021.

The name comes from McNearney's former foster, Possum, who was found in a dumpster. She said that this idea of a "trash cat," both in the literal and metaphorical sense, fit their mission, as many of the cats they take in are found in poor and dirty conditions.

McNearney first learned about fostering cats at age 20, while she was attending the University of Pittsburgh.

"This sounds like the best thing ever," McNearney said, remembering how she felt.

"It's like a library rental program of cats."

McNearney said as soon as she was approved back then, she drove to the Humane Society to find a cat. She chose one named Little Kitty. McNearney eventually adopted her. She had her until the cat died in December 2023.

Walendziewicz was a vet tech who had experience rehabilitating and assisting animals with medical issues.

The pair were connected by a mutual friend to help socialize a feral cat. They have been teaming up ever since. They decided to start the rescue and begin operating as a nonprofit after taking care of their own foster pets.

"You start to do some stuff for the cats yourself once you're bringing them in," McNearney said. "You're like 'hey you know these cats have fleas, I should put some flea treatment' on them or they really should get this or they really should get that. You kinda just start to do a lot of the stuff yourself," she said.

The rescue provides a wide range of resources such as vaccines, vet appointments, housing, food, water and more.

There is no brick-and-mortar location for the rescue.

Many of the cats can be found in McNearney's garage, where she has built a makeshift hotel for fosters.

She provides the animals with all the necessities for survival including a litter box, a bed, food, water and toys.

McNearney and Walendziewicz are not alone in their mission. Trash Cat relies heav-



COURTESY OF ALYSA MCNEARNEY

ily on its large group of volunteers to keep the rescue running. Many of them provide foster homes, others serve in different roles, such as transporters.

Catherine Wacha is a resident of Pittsburgh's North Side neighborhood and a part-time musician. She joined the rescue in 2023 when her cat, Charlie, died.

"Out of all my experiences with cats, this has been the most rewarding," Wacha said.

As a transporter, Wacha frequently drives cats from the rescue to their vet appointments. This role benefits the rescue because the owners are occupied with scheduling vet appointments and filing for grants.

Jamie Fair fills another vital role in the non-profit as a reference checker. Fair will look over adoption applications and reach out to vets and landlords to ensure applicants are a good fit.

"Do they take the animal for its regular checkup? Do they get all the vaccines they are supposed to get?" Fair said. "I make sure they are going to a home where their health is going to be monitored and taken care of with the respect that it deserves."

It is possible for college students to foster cats, McNearney said.

"It's actually kind of nice if you want to foster instead of adopt because we're always there for everything you need," she said. "The rescue pays for everything that they need medically."

Though fostering is possible, it does not come without responsibility. Students must make sure they have room in their days to spend time with their fosters, monitor their health and understand how to take care of a cat's day-to-day needs.

"You need to have some basics in place," Fair said. "You need to have a litter box when the cat comes home. You need to have some room set up that the cat can call theirs, that they can decompress in."

Stephanie Kirk, who is a volunteer foster at the organization summed up the experience.

"Don't overthink it," she says. "Enjoy it. It is super rewarding. Make sure you have a camera on your phone because you're gonna wanna take a thousand pictures everyday."

New coffee shop opens adjacent to The Bluff

CHARLOTTE SHIELDS-ROSSI
staff writer

Although Rylee Prenatt comes to Redhawk Coffee for the convenience of the location, she enjoys the sense of community most.

"It definitely brings more people. It's definitely benefiting our apartment building," Prenatt said. "We're running into each other at the coffee shop and it's giving people a chance to actually meet."

Redhawk Coffee just opened a new location on June 1, in Uptown, near the intersection of Fifth and Mittenberg. This is the fourth store in addition to Oakland, Sharpsburg and Carnegie Mellon University.

Before walking into the coffee shop the smell of various pastries baked on site fills the city air. Upon entering, green walls, wooden tables, an assortment of chairs and yellow couches come into sight. Various plants accent the shop.

The new location is based in a neighborhood that has experienced neglect. Redhawk is interested in helping uplift that neighborhood.

"We are really interested in Uptown," said Joe McMahon, the manager of the location, "serving the needs of the community as it stands right now."

The coffee shop hands surveys to customers asking them what they would like to see on the menu and in store.



KAITLYN HUGHES | FEATURES EDITOR

Right through the door of Redhawk Coffee, the pastries that are made in store are on display.

This is an important aspect of building a customer base at the new location.

"We are really interested and open to that aspect too, like community building in Uptown," McMahon said.

Being located in a community that is rebuilding itself, the store often faces difficulties. This can include people misusing the bathroom.

The cafe does their best to redirect this behavior. By giving those "down on their luck" some assistance.

"We can't fix everything, but we can give a glass of water," McMahon said

The cafe tries to set themselves apart from other coffee shops in the area, taking pride in their unique qualities.

Unlike many coffee shops that use a dark roast, Redhawk uses a light to medium roast.

"Everyone is sort of obsessed with the dark roast, but it often ends up tasting kind of burnt," McMahon said.

Micheal Kuban is the coffee bean roaster for the shop.

"Our roaster really knows what he is talking about," McMahon said. "He researches the farms. He's very big into where everything is coming from and making sure they are top notch."

The beans are sourced from Colombia, Brazil and Ethiopia.

Aside from their distinctive coffee taste, the environment they provide for their baristas is special.

Each barista is allowed to play their own playlist, creating an individualized atmosphere.

"Every store location has its own vibe which is really cool," Prenatt said.

Natalie Corbin, the operational manager, said that drive and potential are important to her when hiring new baristas. The shop often hires those without previous experience.

When describing other qualities of potential hires, Corbin jokingly said "as many tattoos as possible."

"We specialize in really good coffee, but you

can come in. We do not discriminate if you don't know anything about coffee. We welcome you," he said. "The lack of coffee snobbery is my favorite part."

Before Redhawk had its first permanent location in Oakland in 2019, it started as an espresso truck two years prior. The store was started by husband and wife Braden Walter Jr. and Mary Gonzales as a way to support their children.

"We're a local mom and pop coffee shop with deep roots in Pittsburgh," Corbin said.

Corbin said that Gonzales and Walter Jr. lived in a house with Red Hawks around the property. They used that as inspiration when it came time to choose a name for their shop.

As a fellow business owner, Prenatt enjoyed the story behind the coffee shop.

"They started with a food truck, and are here now with four locations, and it's just a wife and a husband," Prenatt said. "That's really cool."

Corbin shared her excitement about opening a store location near Duquesne University. She said she wants the shop to be a hub for Duquesne students to study or have club meetings.

"If you are looking for a way to support a local business, this is it. If there is anything Duquesne students want to throw at us, or events or things like that, please let us know, because we would definitely be interested in that kind of stuff," Corbin said.



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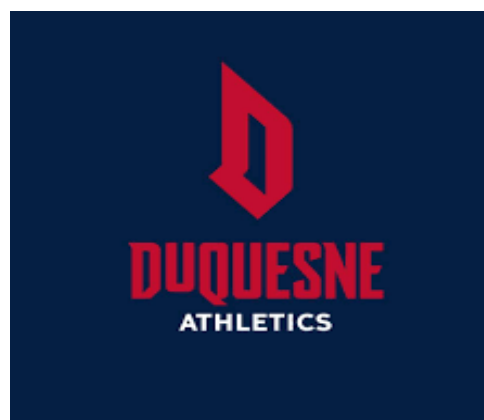
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