

Commencement moved to August

Student Affairs plans festivities to celebrate seniors in spring and summer

BY HUNTER ELLIS
Staff Writer

Xavier University announced that it plans to hold its annual commencement on Aug. 8, after it was postponed by COVID-19 restrictions. Additionally, Student Affairs has arranged a week of recognition for the accomplishments of graduating seniors from April 27 to May 2.

While the transition to a remote format has had an impact on the whole Xavier community, the senior class at Xavier has especially felt the impact.

“I’ve been impacted in the same ways as everyone else — transition to online classes, moving out of my house without the chance to say goodbye to my roommates, not getting to have one last meeting with my extracurriculars or on-campus job in person, and so on,” senior marketing and business analytics major Rachel McFadden said.

“(But) as seniors, I think we are feeling the added impact of not having a ‘new normal’ to go back to. Our lives were already in a dramatic transition. COVID-19 has just exacerbated our uncertainty about walking into a struggling economy and shaken world with basically no heads-up.”

In a recorded message to students, Xavier University President Father Michael Graham said, “Seniors, my heart breaks for you in a special way,” while addressing the news that the university had made the decision to postpone commencement.

While other universities have completely canceled graduation festivities or opted for online formats, the commencement committee, co-headed by Senior Direc-



Photo courtesy of xavier.edu

Xavier’s commencement weekend is postponed until August due to social distancing measures. Consequently, Student Affairs has arranged a recognition week to celebrate the class of seniors pushed off campus by the

tor for Student Affairs Leah Busam-Klenowski and Assistant Registrar Whitney Costner, have created a plan that emulates a traditional commencement ceremony as much as possible.

In order to maintain the atmosphere of a typical Xavier commencement, it was decided that the undergraduate ceremony will take place at 9 a.m. and a graduate ceremony at 3 p.m., both in the Cintas Center.

According to Busam-Klenowski, there were a few criteria that the commencement committee had to consider to decide on a date.

They aimed for a date far enough in the future that social distancing regulations would be lessened, but soon enough to appropriately hon-

or graduates before they have transitioned to their next steps.

Other considerations included the availability of the Cintas Center and of Xavier University leadership.

“I am really happy with the way that Xavier is trying to hold commencement. It gives us as seniors something to hold on to and hopefully a final chance to be together as a class,” senior Molly Onders said.

“We will still have to take it month by month, but I think that Xavier will find a way to make an in-person commencement happen,” she added.

Busam-Klenowski noted that the commencement committee knows there may be issues regarding the Aug. 8 date.

“We understand that many students and their families and friends may not be able to attend this date. We also anticipate that there may be limits on gathering sizes due to COVID-19. We are working on scenario planning to address these concerns.”

As it has in the past, the university plans to live stream the graduation to make the ceremony accessible to those who cannot attend.

There are also more events planned than just the graduation ceremony, according to Busam-Klenowski.

“As part of our planned commencement in August, we are scheduling a four day series of events. Loosely, this may include departmental gatherings and celebrations on Thursday, University Hon-

ors events and Baccalaureate Mass on Friday, undergraduate and graduate commencement ceremonies on Saturday and an alumni send-off on Sunday.”

In addition, Xavier’s Division of Student Affairs is hosting a Student Affairs Recognition Week from April 27 to May 2. Each day of the week, a different office within the department will host virtual events.

On Monday, Recreational Sports will host a Virtual Year End Ceremony with slideshow, videos and awards. Tuesday, the Center for Faith and Justice Magis Society will celebrate through social media.

On Wednesday the Center for Diversity and Inclusion will give out gala awards and celebrate seniors with a send-off.

Thursday there will be a Virtual Student Leadership Assembly. The Office of Student Involvement will recognize the Arrupe Leaders and issue awards for seniors involved with the Student Activity Council, Commuter Services and Gallagher Student Center.

The week will close on Saturday with Residence Life recognizing this year’s Resident Assistants.

Until August, McFadden noted that all seniors can do is hope.

“Xavier has done everything they can to make the circumstances less awful. I’m grateful they are still planning on commencement and I’m hoping most of the class will be able to come back to Cincinnati for a graduation and reunion.”

“I’m just praying that, whenever we do have the ceremony, Dana’s will be open.”

In this issue...

Campus News, Page 2

Students who remain on campus share their experience, SGA makes strides in Monday meeting.



Opinion, Pages 5 & 6

Concerned students challenge Xavier to consider the climate after quarantine.



Sports, Pages 7 & 8

Get the lowdown on Xavier’s graduate transfers and potential players for next season.



A&E, Pages 9 & 10

Throwback aficionado Sydney Sanders examines classic sitcoms to binge at home.



OSI's Arrupe program suspended

After bi-weekly meetings, seniors' final projects will not come to fruition

By MO JUENGER
Staff Writer

The Arrupe Leaders program, hosted by the Office of Student Involvement, was suspended for the remainder of the year beginning on March 16. Most seniors involved in the program had already completed their culminating projects but are unable to bring them fully to fruition remotely.

Additionally, the Office of Student Involvement will formally recognize each of the participants as part of their Virtual Student Leadership Awards on Thursday, April 30.

The Assistant Director for Orientation and Transition Programs Liz Rumball sent the email to Arrupe Leaders notifying them that the program would be suspended shortly after the university's notification of its transition to remote learning.

The Arrupe Leaders program typically includes a group of seniors who have consistently demonstrated outstanding engagement with the Xavier community during their four years.

Each student's participation began this fall with discussion groups every other Friday. These discussion groups make up approximately four-fifths of the pro-

gram and the last weeks are spent on a culminating project.

These discussions typically reflect on the topic of vocation, according to a statement released by Associate Director of Student Involvement Dustin Lewis.

"The outstanding graduating seniors invited to be Arrupe Leaders have shown us what it means to fall in love through their consistently high engagement with the campus community," the statement said.

Arrupe Leader Miles Tiemeyer noted that though he will not be able to execute his project, his reflections this year made the largest impact on him.

"One of the things I really like about Arrupe (Leaders) is that we spend the fall doing a lot of discernment and reflection," Tiemeyer said. "It's given me the opportunity to step back and look at our Xavier experience, which is probably the biggest thing for me."

These projects are intended as a way for students to share their Xavier learning experiences with the community, and planning for them begins in the fall semester. Arrupe Leaders are intended to complete their projects by

mid-April and present them by late April.

Lewis noted that transitioning these projects to remote learning would be difficult and that the Arrupe Leaders' projects may have been able to continue if they were still in the discussion group phase.

"It was determined by our team that we would not be able to successfully transition these remaining components easily into a remote learning environment," Lewis explained. "We were also concerned about the additional stress and burden trying to modify and adapt these projects to this environment would have on seniors working hard to transition their own classes and internships to online."

"We had already completed all of the presentation and discussion content that would have more easily been able to transition to a remote environment and what remained really had to do with the senior students being actively engaged across campus with bringing their projects to life," Lewis continued.

"Some were also still finalizing their next steps beyond Xavier — which is a top priority for those at this point in their Xavier career."



Photo courtesy of Instagram

The 2019 Arrupe Leaders, pictured above, receive recognition for their year long projects. This year's leaders are adapting their work to the new circumstances.

Some students, though their projects have been formally canceled, have still been able to initiate campus change through the work they had already done through the program.

"I was working with other leaders to bring more intersectionality and intentional cross-programming between clubs," Tiemeyer said.

"I had been in talks with certain staff members in Student Affairs, and the exact programming that we had been talking about can't happen, but bits and pieces might work its way into existing programming."

This year, 20 seniors were chosen to participate: Andy Batchelder, Matthew Caldwell, Claire Comer, Francisco de la Garza Iga, Nykiera Dixon, Sierra Fields, Hannah Frey, Sara Hamer, Joshua Jerabek, Caroline Locke, Rachel McFadden, Presley Owusu-Bonsu, Sam Peters, Tine Sokun, Azl Saeed, Grace Schuermann, Mitch Tapia, Miles Tiemeyer, Ihsan Walker and Will Zimble.

The Arrupe Leaders program will continue next fall with a new group of upcoming seniors planning to demonstrate the tenet of vocation on Xavier's campus.

Students share their voices from an empty campus



Newswire photo by Sydney Sanders

As the university campus is shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students who are in circumstances have been sequestered in the Commons Apartments.

By JOSEPH COTTON
Staff Writer

"To say campus is empty doesn't do it justice. Without the hustle and bustle of all the students, it feels like the heart of Xavier has almost disappeared," Zach Kane, one of the handful of students still living on campus, said.

Although most students have been required to return home, the university has allowed some students to stay in the Commons Apartments during the campus wide shut down.

Exceptions were granted to students who filled out a

form, sent via a campus wide email, to show that they were in truly unique circumstances. These situations have ranged from financial stress to personal safety.

However, according to sophomore communications major Rue Crittenden, the housing exception process was not handled as smoothly as it could have been.

"They updated us at around 9 p.m. on a random night. That was the worst night for me," Crittenden said. "I had already filled out a form to stay on campus and I was nervous that they were going

to force everyone to leave."

She went on to say that many things would have changed in her life if she was forced to go off campus. Students ended up needing to fill out an additional form in order to stay on campus.

The nearly empty campus has a much different feel for those who can still experience it.

Junior art major James Reyes-Gomez compared it to a park. "There are still people around," Reyes-Gomez said. "You see a few people out walking their dog, getting fresh air and just getting out of their house while still social distancing."

Others spoke on the eerie contrast between what would be the end of the spring semester and the current situation on campus. "It's a creepy ghost town when no one is here," Kane said. "Xavier isn't Xavier without the community and people present on campus."

In a limited role, the caf is still serving meals to students. Those who are on or near campus are able to go in during limited hours and are handed a bag of food with a few hand-picked items.

Reyes-Gomez recognized how the caf's hours often overlap with the times he has class meetings. "With how it's organized, it requires me to

cook on my own," Reyes-Gomez said. "It's not a big deal, but it is an additional expense."

Additionally, The Store, Xavier's student-run food pantry, is providing students food in a limited capacity.

Despite the challenges of social distancing on campus, classes still continue for the few who stayed.

"I have had less motivation since I don't feel like I am getting as much out of my classes as I used to," Crittenden said. "For the most part

I am keeping up well, but I'm ready for us not to be online. It's not my thing."

Echoing those statements, Reyes-Gomez said that the online classes were disorienting, especially as his art classes are not translating well to an online format.

Despite these difficulties, Kane pointed out that campus in the springtime has also never been so beautiful: "Full of chirping birds, beautiful blooming flowers and lots of people walking their dogs around campus."

April 20 Student Government Association Meeting Recap

COURTESY OF HUNTER ELLIS

- Club budgets passed unanimously.
- SGA will be forming a constitution revision committee starting next week.
- Adviser Leah Busam-Klenowski stated that Xavier would be changing transportation companies which provide the airport shuttles — and also discussed doing away with the shopping shuttle.
- Chief Warfel discussed the extra measures XUPD has implemented to combat COVID-19, using gloves and masks and practicing social distancing measures during patrol.
- SGA is discussing an ad hoc committee to write an agreement with XUPD, a discussion which was tabled by the 2019 Senate after they could not come to an agreement on what the details of the agreement should contain.

Photo-op: 2020 presidential election

“How do you think the pandemic will affect the upcoming presidential race?”

BY MO JUENGER
Staff Writer



“I think the pandemic is going to make voters reevaluate the issues they’re most concerned with. Before the pandemic, issues at the forefront were more related to immigration, healthcare and education. All of a sudden we are finding ourselves on the verge of an economic disaster. I think the voters are going to be assessing the economic policies of the presidential candidates much more critically to decide which candidate can most effectively mend this now fragile economy, and return the country to economic success.”

Mary Cianciolo, junior public-relations major



“I feel as though this pandemic has caused a high rate of voter suppression. I predict that we are going to see incredibly opposing results from the states whose primaries were not postponed versus those that were... I am hopeful that people will recognize that the Trump administration’s response was subpar. That we have to lean on socialism to get us through a crisis should tell the people exactly what we need.”

Carolyn Younquist, junior music education major



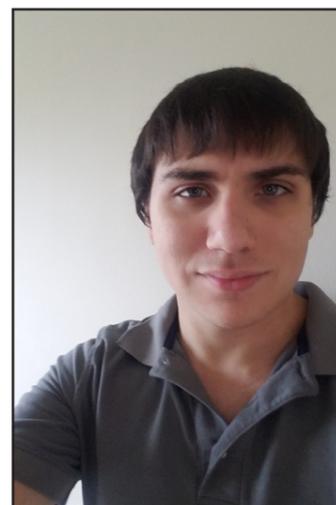
“I personally don’t think that the pandemic will change the outcome of the election because the Democrats have already handed it to Trump by nominating Biden. However, I think it may cause some left-leaning economic policies to become more appealing to conservatives, many of whom are truly seeing the effects of (right-leaning economic policy) for the first time.”

Tristian Weber, junior Philosophy, Politics and the Public and economics major



“I personally think that it is already affecting the 2020 election... Coronavirus is on the media so much that there isn’t a lot of advertising going on. Right now, it’s just Trump vs. Biden and I think Biden is having a hard time advertising his campaign because the coronavirus is on the news so much.”

Maria Skill, senior music performance major



“I think the pandemic helped cement Biden’s victory over Bernie Sanders. I also really think that who wins is going to come down to if people feel like Trump is handling the pandemic well, even though voting seems problematic if COVID-19 doesn’t go away.”

Alex Vinzce, junior biology major

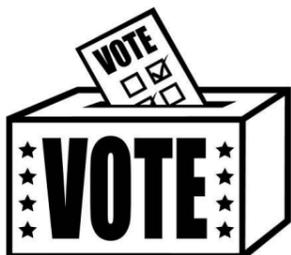


“Personally, I think it should be a damaging thing for Trump but his approval ratings went up for some reason... Seems pretty dumb to support a person who had the foresight to do something about it and then literally (took) no action.”

Dale Hyde, first-year political science major

This pandemic has affected people’s families and people’s jobs. I think that it will be very important in this next election to vote for someone who will help to get the economy back on its feet and help those who’ve been affected.”

Maia Chess, first-year Politics, Philosophy and the Public major.



Week in review — no more police notes edition

Nudes, tree hugging, get dressed, beach items, Gene Attel and Dr. Oz is ok with 2%-3% of kids dying

- Khoros, a social media firm, found in a study that “singles (have been) tweeting the terms ‘nudes’ and ‘d*ck pics’ alongside the term ‘Coronavirus’ at a pace 384% higher than just 30 days ago.” In the same study, the use of the peach and eggplant emojis also rose (April 9).
- The Icelandic Forest Service is recommending that citizens hug trees instead of other humans. “Five minutes is really good, if you can give yourself five minutes of your day to hug, that’s definitely enough,” one forest ranger said (April 12).
- An English woman accidentally wrote the word “Adidas” on herself after applying self-tanner and then putting on a pair of Adidas leggings. The logo was visible on her leg after spending time in the sun. (April 13).
- Walmart announced that demand for hair dye and razors is increasing, noting that we’re now in that “phase” of panic-buying

(April 13).

- A New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that couples in the state can now apply for marriage licenses and host wedding ceremonies virtually (April 19).
- Typical to New Jersey springs, an assortment of unusual items has washed up on the beach. The jetsam includes electronic cigarette cartridges, a pair of men’s boxers, a turkey baster, plastic vampire teeth, a full jar of pickles, a pregnancy test and an empty bag which had held human remains (April 14).
- Comedian Amy Schumer changed her son’s middle name to David after realizing that the child’s original name, Gene Attel Fischer, sounded like the word “genital” (April 14).
- Florida Governor Ron DeSantis updated the state’s shelter-in-place order to allow WWE to continue filming without



Photo courtesy of skogur.is

The Icelandic Forest Service recommends hugging trees, not people.

- an audience (April 14).
- TV personality Martha Stewart commented on an Instagram post made by a Texas chicken farm announcing the arrival of new chicks. She wrote, “M as me sure you feed and water them daily And keep the heat lss as no BK in s as Nd when you can finally come back to nyc who is going to care for them??” Stewart later wrote, “What a mess I have been drinking” (April 15).
- TV personality Dr. Oz apologized after suggesting that schools reopening would be an “appetizing opportunity,” because it would only “cost 2-3% in terms of total mortality” (April 17).
- A Maryland town’s mayor issued a statement asking residents to remember to wear pants when getting their mail, saying “Please remember to put pants on before leaving the house to check your mailbox. You know who you are. This is your final warning” (April 17).
- Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko included, among other essential food items, a bottle of Hennessy in each citizen’s COVID-19 relief package. He called the beverage “throat sanitizer” (April 17).



Photo courtesy of WWE

WWE will be allowed to continue filming matches without audiences.

Ohioans protest to lift stay-at-home

Trump announces new federal guidelines for states to lift stay-at-home restrictions

BY JOSEPH COTTON
Staff Writer

Protests in several state capitals, including Columbus, occurred last week to demand an end to stay-at-home orders. This occurred after President Donald Trump announced Open Up America Again (OUAA) guidelines that have been met with criticism from state governments.

In Ohio, hundreds of unmasked demonstrators gathered outside of the state capital. Protesters were calling for Governor Mike DeWine to reopen the economy and lift the shelter-in-place order.

"We can't stay like this much longer," Ohio Senator of District 19 Andrew Brenner said on Facebook. "Hundreds of thousands of Ohioans who've lost their jobs or the thousands of small business owners can't keep doing this either."

"We're all big believers in the First Amendment... they were protesting against me yesterday and that's just fine, they have every right to do that," DeWine said.

"We're going to do what we think is right, what I think is right, and that is, try to open this economy, but do it very, very carefully so we don't get a lot of people killed."

In a later statement, he did encourage protesters to practice



Photo Courtesy of Flickr

Protesters gathered outside of the state capital building in Columbus to ask Governor Mike DeWine to overturn the state's shelter-in-place order. DeWine later encouraged protesters to practice social distancing measures.

appropriate social distancing measures.

Nurses from a hospital near the Columbus state house staged a counterprotest while maintaining social distancing practices.

Sophomore Philosophy, Politics and the Public major and Columbus resident Matthew Dixon expressed disappointment in the demonstrations.

"I think (the protesters) need to understand (the restrictions) will be over eventually," Dixon said. "They should stop complaining and realize these measures are for the health and safety of everyone."

The nationwide protests were organized largely by right-wing, libertarian groups. Protesters in several states were seen openly carrying firearms, waving pro-Trump banners and other political flags including Nazi flags.

While the protests were occurring, President Trump tweeted "LIBERATE MICHIGAN!", "LIBERATE MINNESOTA!" and "LIBERATE VIRGINIA, and save your great 2nd Amendment. It is under siege!"

Despite protests in other states with Republican governors, all three of the states mentioned by name in the

tweet have Democratic governors.

According to a recent Pew Research Study, 66% of respondents stated that they were worried state governments would lift restrictions too quickly.

Of those surveyed, 81% of Democrats stated that they were concerned that the governments would open up social activity too soon as compared to 51% of Republicans.

OUAA is the White House's and Center for Disease Control's three-phased guidelines for helping state and local governments safely lift economic and social restrictions put in place due to

the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the White House website, the guidelines are based on up-to-date data and are designed to mitigate the risk of resurgence while protecting the most vulnerable.

The guidelines are also meant to be implemented "on statewide or county-by-county basis at governors' discretion."

The OUAA guidelines have been criticized by governors from both sides of the aisle for assuming that the United States has the ability to test for the COVID-19 at a fast enough rate to have accurate infection data.

DeWine announced that he is looking to begin reopening the economy on May 1.

The state of Ohio will monitor the number of cases, the amount of protective equipment and Ohio's testing capacity.

DeWine stated in an appearance on NBC news that he believes he can double to triple the number of tests in the state if the FDA can loosen some of the restrictions on the production of test kits.

DeWine has agreed to work with governors from six states in the Midwest, including Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky, to coordinate the reopening of the regional economy.

COVID-19 conspiracies criticize 5G networks

Virus theories linking pandemic to 5G lead to arson and social media restrictions

BY MO JUENGER
Staff Writer

Conspiracy theories surrounding COVID-19 have led to crime, social media restrictions and poor public health practices. The dominant theory links COVID-19 to 5G networks, but others involve Bill Gates and genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

Some believers in the 5G theory claim that 5G waves weaken our immune system or transmit the virus itself, although there has been no scientific evidence to affirm these claims.

The World Health Organization (WHO) released a statement saying that 5G networks do not spread COVID-19, citing that viruses cannot travel through radio waves and that the virus has spread in many countries without 5G networks.

The WHO stated that COVID-19 is spread through respiratory droplets, when a person sneezes, coughs, speaks or touches a contaminated surface.

Several celebrities have come out in support of the theories, some of whom have been admonished by fans for promoting misinformation.

In response to the theories, nearly 60 5G towers have



Photo Courtesy of Flickr

In 2015, Bill Gates gave a TED Talk on the possibility of a "new pandemic" after the Ebola virus outbreak. Theorists claim that this means Gates knew about the future virus outbreak before the pandemic occurred.

been set on fire in the United Kingdom by believers of the theory. There have also been 11 arson attempts on 5G towers in the Netherlands.

After airing an interview with 5G theorist David Icke, television station London Live is facing sanctions by media regulator Ofcom.

Ofcom's ruling determined that Icke's unproven claims "had the potential to cause significant harm to viewers in London during the pandemic," therefore causing a threat to public health.

First-year economics major

Patrick Stebbins noted that he believes the 5G conspiracy to be false, though its effects may still be detrimental to public health.

"5G and (COVID-19) have no correlation, besides the fact that it will make people go outside and protest 5G and therefore give more people (COVID-19) because they're in contact with other people," Stebbins said.

Some individuals not in support of vaccinations, commonly known as anti-vaxxers, have claimed that Bill Gates created or was prematurely

aware of the virus. This claim is based on a 2015 TED Talk Gates gave after the Ebola outbreak, in which he states that there will be a "new pandemic."

Others who blame Gates claim that COVID-19 is a plot to vaccinate the world's population. This is often linked to the humanitarian work that Gates leads through his foundation to provide low-income areas with opportunities to become vaccinated. Neither Gates nor his family have directly responded to these accusations.

Some believers in the GMO theory believe that feeding GMO soya to farm animals caused the SARS outbreak in 2013 and that the widespread use of GMOs in modern agriculture is linked to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Several social media platforms, including YouTube, Twitter and Facebook, are restricting posts with inaccurate information surrounding COVID-19. Facebook noted that it will begin removing posts with false information and Twitter noted that it is increasing machine-learning to take down false posts regarding theories about the pandemic.

YouTube said that this content does not directly violate site policies, but the company will be reducing possible ad revenue, reducing algorithmic recommendations and removing search results for content linked to the false 5G theory.

Junior biology major Alex Vinzce disregards the theories as false conspiracies, noting in particular that the only danger associated with 5G is with high radiation at extremely close range.

He stated that the spread of misinformation and was alarming, given the lack of evidence to support these theories.

To our community on Earth Day

Yesterday was Earth Day, and the Earth is happier than it has been in a long time. Skies are clearer here in Cincinnati and in Beijing. Our national parks are reporting animals are returning to landscapes they have not occupied in a long time. Fossil fuels are staying in the ground rather than being extracted because of decreased demand.

And, perhaps, we are happier too? We know people who have gotten back into exercising, made better neighborhood and familial connections, felt more energetic and are less stressed. But we also know many have suffered greatly, and continue to struggle with loss of income, illness, anxiety and grief. The pandemic continues to take a terrible toll.

But this is not “normal.” We will go back to what is considered normal at some point. Do we want that? Does the earth want that? Probably not. But those who control the levers of power and the economy do. For if we do not buy, spend

and fly as before, we are told the economy we have built at the expense of the earth will collapse, and significant societal inequalities will continue to exist and deepen.

Ohioans have been recognized as leaders in being proactive in steps needed to flatten the curve. Many of us are proud of that right now. And our university was an early adopter of practices to flatten the curve.

Should we use this as an opportunity to change many things for the greater good of all? Can we be leaders in flattening the climate crisis curve by showing ways to reduce our footprint emissions?

We, as a Xavier community, can take some of this unusual time and embrace our Jesuit value of reflection. We can think about what we want this new normal to look like for ourselves, our university, our communities, our health-care workers and the world at large.

The Universal Apostolic

Preferences call for accompanying youth for a hope-filled future, caring for the most vulnerable and the Earth. The most vulnerable are at high risk during the pandemic, and all of the science and experts warn we will be at high risk if our patterns continue as before.

We as a Jesuit institution care about the effects on the vulnerable and marginalized; we cannot be “for others” unless we consider the ones at most risk. All of these are being embraced by more people now than a few months ago.

What better practices can we bring back to campus that we have learned at home during these times? These are some of the things we have learned or been doing:

- The importance of getting outside when your home and workspace become one!
- Eating/shopping locally
- Starting seeds and plants to grow at home
- Composting kitchen waste
- Upcycling items that we

already have and give them a second life

-Meditating, Tai Chi, prayer and other spiritual practices

-Reaching out to neighbors

-Connecting to others for creative problem-solving

-Advocating for the common good

More than anything, though, we deeply believe that if our institution were to take the collective effort and energy focused on fighting the pandemic toward building an institutional culture of fighting global climate change, our students would benefit. If Xavier can continue to exhibit

the kind of solidarity and concern that has been shown over the last few months to create a culture of cultivating sustainability (in its broadest sense) and resilience, our students would thrive here during their four years and find ways to apply what they learned and experienced here to their future lives.

If these are questions and ideas that are of interest to you, we encourage you to join us Wednesday, April 29, for our Climate Change Action workshop. <https://xavier.zoom.us/j/853993674>

This piece was written and endorsed by the following students and faculty:

Alex Ackerman, Christine Anderson, Margot Bond, Grace Cover, Sierra Crouch, Anna DeHondt, Claire Fischer, Hannah Frey, Anna Gillespie, Alex Roman Gonzalez, Alana Harvey, Cozia James, Anas Malik, Chloe Manz, Matt Maratea, Molly Onders, Kaitlyn Roach, Azl Saeed, Gabriella Scolio, Megan Sewell, Mike Smith, Kathleen Smythe, Grace Thomas, Marita von Weissenberg, Blaise Weller, Brittany Wells and Alysia Wilson

In pursuit of the uncomfortable

There is something to be said about the familiar comforts of life.

In a world that ravages and enervates us, that makes us suffer the hurriedness of living and that sweeps us in its whirlwind in a way that does not facilitate rest, the creature comforts of home can seem like a welcome respite.

Certainly, images of warm hearths, hearty meals and vibrant conversation in our minds give us the caesuras in our lives for which we often seek and hope.

It is in these moments that we can feel more grounded and connected to each other, vulnerable, introspective and joyful. Yet remaining in this realm of comfort for too long is not conducive to the growth of ourselves as human beings and keeps us from experiencing *jouissance*.

Jouissance is a concept that comes from the French word for “enjoyment.” For me, it is the fulfillment of being that

we can achieve in ourselves by creating works of art, connecting with other people and immersing ourselves in the flux of life, courageously unafraid. It is the unfurling of our souls, as if we were flowers. It is the fullest expression of being that enriches and enlivens us by allowing us to turn our gaze inward and cultivate our “selves” with all that nurtures and nourishes human life: art, music, conversation, love, friendship and poetry.

To bring ourselves into this fullest expression of being, we must leave the creature comforts of home behind. We cannot be entrenched in “the comfortable” if we want the most vibrant experience of life.

What is warm and pleasurable is absolutely lovely, for some time, yet we become complacent if this mode of existence becomes the way in which we define our lives.

Franz Kafka, a German-speaking Czech writer once wrote that we should

“read only the kind of books that wound or stab us (...because) A book must be the axe for the frozen sea within us.” This is absolutely true. What is more, we should transpose that idea to our lives. Instead of dwelling in the safety of “the comfortable,” we should embrace the aspect of “the uncomfortable,” the uncertain, the exquisite dimension of living that astonishes us with its intensity beyond our normalcy.

Pursuing “the uncomfortable” is no easy task. It opens us up to the vulnerability of living without certainty, without the need to be “right” and to feeling the diminishment of our wills.

In embracing “the uncomfortable,” we may feel disquieted and afraid. “The uncomfortable,” however, is the crucible out of which all the greatest moments of our lives can be born, from aesthetic creations to the kindling of friendships to the transfigurations of our

ordinary lives into sacred rituals of being.

Embracing “the uncomfortable” is less a sequence of actions and more a mindset. It is to allow yourself to tolerate hesitancy and unfamiliarity in a way that brings forth the possibilities of living that lie only beneath the surface. Most of all, it is to engage in the world with dynamism and an open mind that cultivates *jouissance*.

The difficulty of this pursuit is unparalleled. It is so easy to remain manacled to the same patterns of being and living. The uncertainty and vulnerability of “the uncomfortable” is terrifying. What is more terrifying, however, is the thought that your “self” might never experience the joy of feeling so fulfilled, connected, grateful and integrated, that it might never feel the utter enjoyment of living for its own sake, or worse, that it might fall into the chasm of lassitude, of ennui.

Jouissance is the most powerful feeling we can experience—for what could compare to feeling dazzlingly and infinitely authentic, as if the energy of being itself was flowing through your veins?

Existence enraptured can only come from embracing the terra incognita of life, the feeling of being uncomfortable, the brilliance and resplendence of possibility.



Sofia Ordoñez a senior English major. She is the Arts & Entertainment Editor for the Newswire from Cincinnati.

THE STAFF

Editor-in-Chief
Kevin Thomas

Managing Editor
Heather Gast

Head Copy Editor
Hannah Schulz

Campus News Editors
Alex Budzynski
Jack Dunn

Opinions & Editorials Editor
Sydney Sanders

Sports Editor
Luke Feliciano

Arts & Entertainment Editor
Sofia Ordoñez

Back Page Editor
Aidan Callahan

Copy Editors
Alex Ackerman, Tess Brewer, Hannah Cariati, Delaney Malory, Maddie Marsh, Robert Ryan and Maggie Schroeder

Staff Writers
Joe Clark, Joseph Cotton, Hunter Ellis, Kate Ferrell and

Mo Juenger

Online Editor
Mya Priestler

Photography Editor
Jeff Richardson

Staff Photographer
Desmond Fischer

Distribution Managers
Jack Dunn
Joseph Cotton

Adviser
John Stowell

Mission Statement

The Xavier Newswire is committed to reporting the news as well as explain its significance to readers. In addition, through publishing opposing viewpoints and opinions, the Newswire hope to foster a dialogue on campus, among students, faculty and staff.

Advertising

All inquiries should be directed to the Editor-in-Chief, Kevin Thomas, at 513-745-3561, by email at newswire@xavier.edu or at www.xavier-newswire.com

For Your Information

The Xavier Newswire is published weekly throughout the school year, except during vacations and final exams, by the students of Xavier University, 3800 Victory Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45207. One copy is free per person per week.

*The Newswire has made the decision to stray from the AP Style Guide when printing the words White and Black in reference to groups of people. We have decided to capitalize both.

Exacerbating economic inequalities

One of the most meaningful things a professor has said to me in my time at Xavier was about pets.

Their student, on a trip to El Salvador, noted that she was heavily involved with animal rescue nonprofits. The student was shocked by the commonality of what U.S. citizens consider to be animal abuse. But, that El Salvador trip was designed to teach students about severe income inequalities in Latin America.

When you're in an incredibly impoverished area; culturally decimated by uncontrollable crime, when 29% of your country is below the poverty level, when 8.5% of your country lives on less than 3.20 U.S. dollars per day, when your urban areas are home to gangs like MS-13 and Barrio 18, you focus on people above animals.

The point of this story

isn't to say that Salvadorans should be allowed to continue abusing animals. It's that, as U.S. citizens, we don't have the global or economic perspective to prioritize other country's issues.

As we're all fairly unfamiliar with the intricacies of Chinese wet markets, it's easy for us to criticize the system because its misuse was partially responsible for a global issue. This, however, leads us only to look at it through a global lens. We then can't see its realistic necessity as a facet of life for thousands of people every day.

We don't understand the economic significance of wet markets, but it has become a constant criticism of China and the COVID-19 pandemic because of first-world vanity.

A wet market, a commonly misunderstood term, is not inherently associated with exotic animal sales. Wet mar-

kets are divided into three categories: some that sell no live animals, some that sell only live poultry and fish and some that sell more exotic animals.

In this sense, Cincinnati has areas that can be considered wet markets. Any open-air market which sells fresh fish, poultry, meat or produce can be considered a wet market. When people call for a ban on wet markets, they are already misidentifying an enemy based on a lack of cultural education.

The damage caused by the closure of all wet markets would be drastically different from that of just ill-regulated exotic markets.

It's also worth noting that China instituted a ban on some wet markets in 2003 and 2013 after the SARS and avian influenza outbreaks. This led to an eruption of black markets, which ulti-

mately made necessary wet market goods inaccessible to lower-income individuals who needed them for food. This shows that a ban on wet markets would hurt mostly this group.

Wet markets account for 30% to 59% of China's food supplies. Consider this: if Walmart groceries shut down in the U.S., the middle and upper classes would not be affected. Those who can afford it can shop at higher-end grocery stores like Whole Foods; however, many lower-income shoppers who could not afford these higher-end stores would be left without food options.

We don't consider the economic ramifications of closing all wet markets because we're thinking about this as middle-class U.S. citizens, who have more options available than those who have to shop at wet markets.

The call to ban wet markets comes from a capitalistic U.S. ideology, which tells us that the lower class will pull itself up by the bootstraps to reach the average person's level. It tells us that all people who utilized wet markets will be able to find a nearby grocery with similar prices, even though we don't have the evidence to back that up.



Mo Juenger is a first-year Philosophy, Politics and the Public and Spanish double major. She is a staff writer for the Newswire from Mason, Ohio.

Finding justice through Ignatian values

I was recently thinking back to Manresa, when you gather with your major for the first time. Dr. Paul Colella, the founding Philosophy, Politics and the Public' director, walked into the room full of scared 18-year-olds and asked us one question, "What is justice?"

I don't remember exactly what was said, but I do know that it was a great way to frame our first PPP class, where all we did was look at different philosophers and what they defined justice as.



Miles Tiemeyer is a senior Philosophy, Politics and the Public and political science double major. He is a guest writer for the Newswire from Cincinnati.

I thought that the mental heavy lifting was over and I could go back to "normal classes."

Well boy, was I mistaken. My classes at Xavier have pushed me to deal with real world questions on an almost daily basis. I have been asked tough questions about right and wrong. While at times very frustrating, I also have never been given a clear answer. I have been taught to question, to understand, to analyze and to reach my own decision.

Hard questions were asked of me outside of the classroom as well. Through my involvement in the Center for Faith and Justice and the Office for Student Involvement, I have consistently been put in positions where I have had to ask if something was good, not just good enough. Did something need to change, was something problematic? How can we do better? I would love to say that I always improved the situations we were in, but that's simply unrealistic.

Did I make some mistakes? For sure. Did I learn from them? Most definitely. I learned that when asking the hard questions, you won't always come up with the right answer, but you can still better yourself.

Whether that be something as simple as what the theme is for Community Action Day or harder things like how to create intersectional programming, how to navigate racial tensions on campus after bias incidents, how to deal with sexual violence in your friend group, or a dozen of other incredibly difficult questions that Xavier students deal with far too often.

These questions are difficult, they test our values and make us question who we are. But the person we become on the other side; that is a better person. You become a better

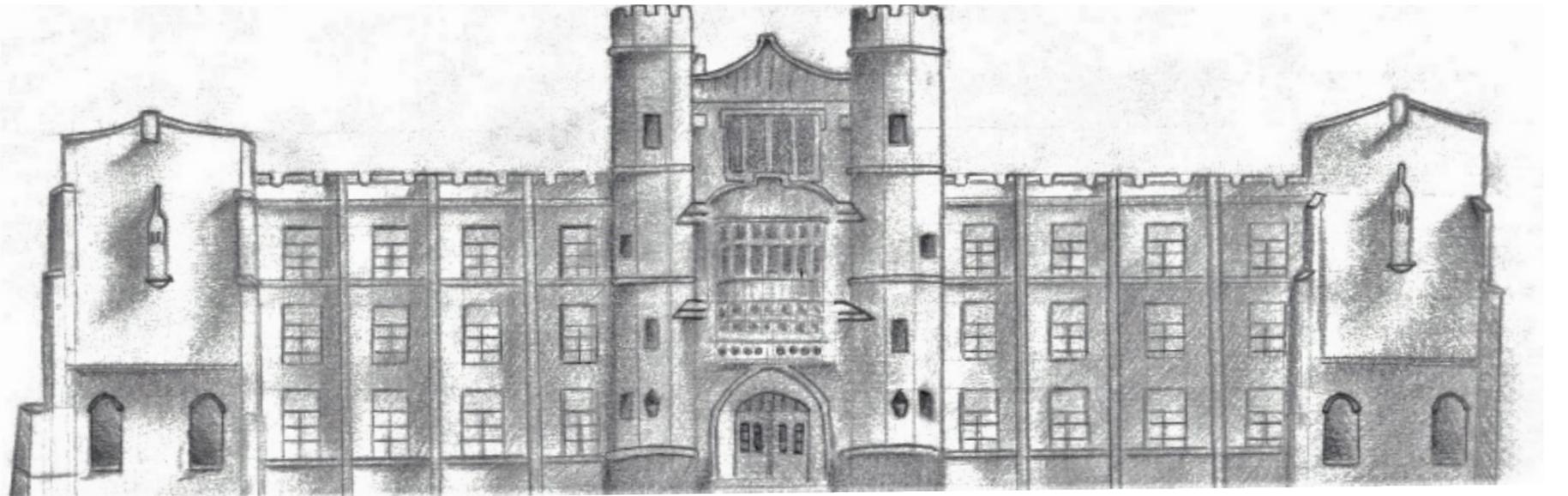
person for fighting the fight. You become a better person for the struggles you have come through. You become a better person for asking the hard questions.

I have been asking and attempting to answer these questions for the last four years and as I close in on my final days at Xavier. I have had plenty of time to reflect. I think back to that Manresa orientation session with Dr. Colella. He asked us to define justice. Honestly, I think that Xavier never stopped asking me that question. Every hard question I have faced has come down to: what is justice? What is the right thing to do? Well, I don't know if I have an answer four years later, but I'll try.

I once attended a talk by a

Jesuit about St. Ignatius' First Principle and Foundation. During that talk the speaker said that "justice is a right relationship with God." What is the right relationship with God for me? That can sometimes feel like a loaded question. As I have come to find comfort in Ignatian spirituality, it helps provide glimpses of an answer.

A right relationship with God means Cura Personalis in my daily life for the people around me, but it also means Cura Personalis for those migrants at the border. It means Cura Personalis for those affected by climate change. It means striving for solidarity and kinship. It means walking with those on the margins. It means coming together in the spirit of St. Ignatius. It means learning and serving together. It means succeeding in changing the world together. It means acting with integrity, justice and generosity. Striving for the right relationship with God, striving for justice, is a lifelong challenge, but oh, is it worth it.



2020 MLB Draft leaves league's future in jeopardy

Upcoming draft to occur in June or later and will only include five rounds

BY LUKE FELICIANO
Sports Editor

Baseball has the most advanced developmental system in all of sports — one major league club with a slew of minor league affiliates designed to gradually produce and build talent.

With the COVID-19 pandemic still ongoing, the MLB has resorted to making changes to the upcoming MLB Draft.

This is mostly being done in order to mitigate large financial losses faced by teams because there is no consistent form of revenue as a result of the suspension of the 2020 season.

Changes with the scouting, selection process and the draft itself could have a major impact on the future of the league.

This could also be said in conjunction with alterations the NCAA has already made by granting college baseball programs to expand rosters and allow players to retain a year of eligibility.

The highly sought after players coming out of college and high school won't be affected all that much by the changes — it's the middle-to-late round players who will be impacted most.

That's because the league



Photo courtesy of si.com

With the MLB Draft structure being altered due to COVID-19, the future of minor league baseball has been put in doubt. Players like former 13th rounder Albert Pujols may never get their opportunity to play professional baseball.

is slashing the numbers of rounds in the draft by nearly 88%.

In the 2020 draft, which is currently slated for June but may shift to a later date, there will only be five rounds. A typical draft has 40 rounds.

And there won't be a full draft in 2021 either as the league plans to limit the selection to only 20 rounds.

In the past, there have been a laundry list of well-known players who could best be described as late bloomers.

They were good enough to make it to the pros in the first

place, but by were no means high on many draft boards. Through the years of development, they emerged as top-notch talent.

Some of these names include lights-out players such as Nolan Ryan (Round 12), Albert Pujols (Round 13), Ryne Sandberg (Round 20), John Smoltz (Round 22) and Roy Oswalt (Round 23).

One top sports agent, Scott Boras, talked about how detrimental this could all be in a press conference with reporters last month: "When you talk about the 350th or 450th best player in the draft, you're

talking about a darn good baseball player. This guy may not be a big leaguer, but he's a very skilled minor leaguer who can play well and allow a premium major leaguer to develop earlier and to develop competently because they're playing against a higher level of talent."

In this year's draft, scouts and organizations as a whole will only be able to rely on past film, video and other showcase materials because the college baseball season was only a few weeks in before it was cancelled.

One scout anonymously

told the New York Times, "My first thought is that a lot of kids are going to really lose out, and it's sad for them. They work their whole lives for the chance to get drafted, and finally when it's their turn, all this happens."

There have also been ongoing talks surrounding how the structure of the minor league system will work.

Talks began as early as October 2019 about the MLB proposing the idea to whittle down the number of minor league teams by about a quarter as early as next season.

There will also be financial ramifications for the players — a player that could have received hundreds of thousands upon signing may now only receive just a small portion of that as a result of the budget concerns.

The one upside to these changes is that college baseball has the potential to be uber-competitive with players who may have foregone their junior or senior seasons, opting to stay at their respective schools instead because the draft is truncated to fewer rounds.

In any case, major sport leagues across the country have frantically been attempting to curate solutions to keep their leagues afloat.

Xavier basketball adds a pair of graduate transfers

BY JOE CLARK
Staff Writer

In the past few weeks, Xavier men's basketball has picked up two graduate transfers for the upcoming season. Nate Johnson, a guard, joins the Musketeers from Gardner-Webb where he averaged 13.5 points, 4.7 rebounds, 1.2 assists and 1.7 steals in 32.2 minutes per game. As a sophomore the year before, Johnson averaged 9.7 points per game and shot 38.9% from 3-point range.

Johnson fills one of Xavier's biggest needs for the 2020-21 season which is shooting from the wing. He had 11 games last season where he hit three or more 3s, and he had nine such games in his sophomore season.

"Nate is a guy that will impact our team on both ends of the court," head coach Travis Steele said in a press release. "Nate brings a great deal of versatility, which is what you want at the wing position in today's game. He can guard multiple positions and he's a very good shooter. We made it a priority to add some shooting to our lineup for next season ... He is a leader (and) is going to be a great voice in the locker



Photo courtesy of gwusports.com

Nate Johnson is one of Xavier's new additions for the 2020-21 season. The graduate transfer averaged more than 13 points per game last season at Gardner-Webb and adds to the team's 3-point shooting with range from deep.

room."

Johnson's defense is also solid, as he was graded as Gardner Webb's top defender last season using Synergy Sports' efficiency metrics. He will surely be in the conversation to start immediately for Xavier, but if he doesn't start, he'll certainly see consistent minutes off the bench as his shooting will be needed.

Johnson will join a Xavier guard rotation that includes senior Paul Scruggs, sophomore KyKy Tandy and also

incoming freshmen Dwon Odom and C.J. Wilcher.

Xavier filled another one of their big needs with the pick-up of Bryan Griffin, a Division II power forward out of Mercy College in New York.

The Musketeers didn't have a ton of depth behind Jason Carter at the four, and Griffin is a body that can provide decent minutes off the bench. Last year at Mercy, Griffin averaged 19.5 points per game and 14.5 rebounds per game while shooting

51.8% from the field.

Griffin isn't expected to be a big contributor offensively, but he could develop into a decent post defender. Where Griffin excels and where he'll provide most of his help for Xavier is on the glass, as Griffin is an advanced rebounder who will try and help fill the rebounding void left by Tyrique Jones' departure.

"Bryan brings that physicality you need in the Big East," Steele said in a press release. "Bryan is mobile for a

big guy and he really attacks the glass. With what we lost off of this year's team, we really needed to add some rebounding and that is what he does best. Rebounding translates no matter what level you play on."

Griffin will likely be a guy who plays around 8-10 minutes and can grab some boards off the bench. He can also give Jason Carter or Zach Freemantle a breather.

Xavier is still involved with a few transfers for 2021, none moreso than Trevor Lakes, a 6-foot-11 forward from Division II Indianapolis. Lakes is a talented shooter, and he would be able to stretch the floor well for Xavier.

However, Xavier is looking at him more for the 2021 roster, and even if the one-time transfer exemption rule is passed that would allow players to play immediately, it's likely Lakes would still take a redshirt year for the 2020 season.

Colin Castelton, a big man from Michigan, is another player Xavier may be involved with. However, he likely wouldn't want to sit out a year and it's tough to find a fit for him in the rotation in 2020, which could lead to him opting to go elsewhere.

2020 NFL Draft: Teams will virtually select players

The hometown Bengals own the No. 1 pick; QB Joe Burrow is the surefire choice

BY HUNTER ELLIS
Staff Writer

Contrary to the trend of large sporting events being postponed, the NFL draft will continue on as scheduled, taking place virtually instead of in Las Vegas.

The 2020 draft during COVID-19 has several stipulations from the league. Teams must gather no more than ten people per group in a war room that must be in a private house instead of a public location. All 32 teams will be on one video conference, and there is also a separate conference for league officials.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has said that he will announce the picks from his basement, though it may seem a bit odd that fans will not have the ability to boo the commissioner every time he speaks, as is tradition in person.

As the first round, scheduled for Thursday night, inches closer, talk of prospects and storylines for the draft has consumed sports talk shows across the nation.

As always, there are several big prospects for the 2020 draft, but the man who everyone is talking about is quarterback Joe Burrow, the headliner and LSU product.

Burrow finished his college career with a dream 2019



Photo courtesy of forbes.com

After posting Heisman-like numbers in his senior season at LSU, quarterback Joe Burrow appears to be the likely No. 1 pick in Thursday's virtual NFL Draft.

campaign, which featured the top honors in college football, the Heisman Trophy and a College Football Playoff Championship.

During the season, he threw for 5,671 yards and an NCAA-record 60 touchdown passes while completing 76.3% of his passes.

While his college success is undeniable, the biggest question that remains for Burrow is if he can bring it at the next level.

He is a smart player who places the ball in good spots with good timing and an-

icipation, and he can even make some plays with his feet. However, some scouts believe he has below average arm strength and just an average release time.

Professional comparisons have ranged from two-time MVP quarterback Kurt Warner and longtime Cowboys signal caller Tony Romo to current Rams signal-caller Jared Goff.

The Bengals have reportedly already informed Burrow he will be the No. 1 pick in the draft tomorrow.

Even so, some still speculate that the Miami Dolphins

could trade up for the coveted prospect.

That being said, Burrow is not the best prospect in the draft. Instead, that honor belongs to Ohio State defensive end Chase Young.

Young was a disruptive force for the Buckeyes. He had 16.5 sacks, six forced fumbles and 21 tackles for loss in a stellar junior season (for reference, 2017 No. 1 overall pick Myles Garrett — considered the clear number one selection that year — had 11.5 sacks, five forced fumbles, and 19.5 tackles for a loss in his best college season).

Scouts project Young's best NFL comparison is Julius Peppers, and state he has the perfect size and great speed to make an impact at the edge position. Pro Football Focus (PFF), an NFL stats database, even suggested that Young is the best edge prospect they have ever analyzed, putting him above recent top three picks Garrett, Jadeveon Clowney and brothers Nick and Joey Bosa.

After Burrow and Young, there are a plethora of high tier quarterbacks and wide receivers that could come off the board.

Other projected top quarterbacks off the board include Oregon's Justin Herbert, Alabama's Tua Tagovailoa and Utah State's Jordan Love.

One storyline that many will be following on draft night is if Tagovailoa slides down the draft board.

Many teams are rumored to be wary of the College Football Playoff winning QB's injury history, which includes multiple high ankle sprains and a hip injury that cost him the final three games of the 2019 season.

The highest number of receivers to be taken in the first round in the last decade was six in 2015, but the 2020 draft could surpass this number.

NFL.com lists eight receivers in the top 40 draft prospects and PFF has 10 in their top 40. From small and speedy receivers like Alabama's Henry Ruggs III and Texas Christian University's Jalen Reagor, to tall and physical receivers like Clemson's Tee Higgins, there is a large crop of NFL-ready receivers in this draft.

Other storylines in the draft to watch out for include whether the Patriots use this draft to find Tom Brady's long-term successor and if top-four pick holders, the Detroit Lions and New York Giants, will make blockbuster trades down the draft board, as rumors suggest.

The virtual draft figures to add a different dimension to one of the most anticipated events of the sports year.

'The Last Dance' touts an inside look at Jordan's Bulls

BY JACK DUNN
Campus News Editor

Babe Ruth. Muhammad Ali. These names are the first to come up when trying to compare Michael Jordan to another athlete in "The Last Dance."

This docuseries is not here to convince you why MJ is the greatest ever. It's here to prove it.

"The Last Dance" is everything you could hope for in a Jordan documentary. In the first two episodes you get interviews from everyone including Jordan, Scottie Pippen, Bulls owner Jerry Reinsdorf, former coach Phil Jackson, "former Chicago resident" Barack Obama, "former Arkansas Governor" Bill Clinton, Steve Kerr, Charles Oakley, John Paxton, Jordan's mother, brothers and many more. Director Jason Hehir said he interviewed 130 people for the docuseries, so we've only scratched the surface of what will be seen in the remaining eight episodes.

How did we get here? Specifically, how did the Bulls start the 1997-1998 season coming off their fifth championship in seven years with questions over whether or

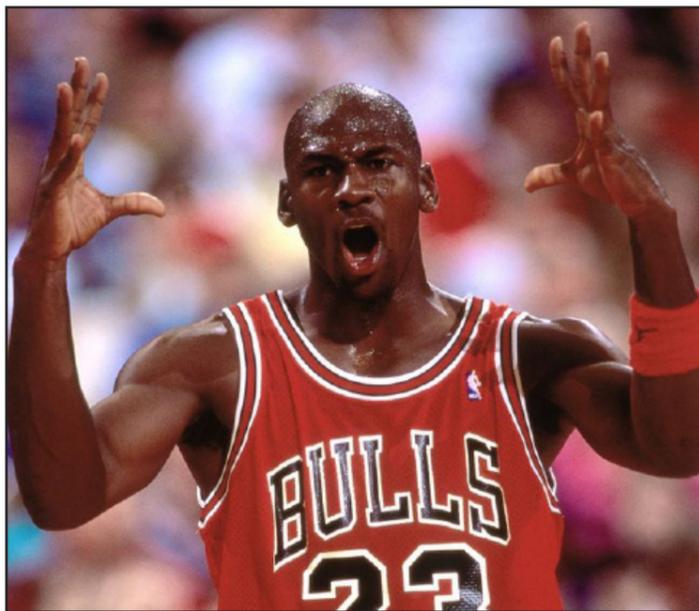


Photo courtesy of vulture.com

Michael Jordan opened up about his experiences with the Bulls in the first two episodes of ESPN's much-hyped ten-part docuseries "The Last Dance."

not they were going to start rebuilding? That is the question that Episode 1 asks. Everyone knows that the 1997-1998 season was truly "The Last Dance." Phil Jackson wasn't returning.

Jordan said he wouldn't play for anyone but Jackson. Scottie Pippen was unhappy with his salary. I can't think of another time in the history of sports where it was so clear that going into an upcoming season that this was the last

time the band would be getting together.

Using the backdrop of that final season, Episode 1 shows us how Jordan became that good. In short, it's the way that coaches across America want youth sports to work. It shows the hard work and grit that Jordan went through just to go to college at North Carolina. It shows us the first instance of Jordan being clutch with his NCAA Championship winning jumper in 1982.

Episode 2 describes how competitive he was, even when playing against his own brothers. He would always keep his teammates on edge, driving them to play at their best. It culminates in the story of his sophomore season, where he was injured for months with a broken foot. When he came back, he prevented the Bulls from tanking and willed his team into the playoffs despite having a losing record overall. Jordan would go on to put on a show with 49 and 62 point performances against Larry Bird's top-seeded Celtics.

No documentary of Jordan would be complete without mention of Scottie Pippen. In Jordan's own words he was "my greatest teammate." Pippen was ranked second on the Bulls in almost every stat category behind Jordan.

But "The Last Dance" shows us the tragedy of Pippen. He was paid significantly less than Jordan (by his own doing, really) and wasn't allowed to renegotiate with the Bulls.

It boils over in that final season, with Pippen delaying surgery on his broken foot until the season starts and then demanding a trade by

December.

In recent memory, good docuseries have a good villain. In "McMillions" it was Uncle Jerry. In "Tiger King" it was Carole Baskin. In "The Last Dance," it's former Bulls General Manager Jerry Krause.

It is clear from the beginning that the players and coaches do not like him. He told Phil Jackson that he "doesn't care if (Jackson) goes 82-0, this is your last season as head coach."

He's the one who wouldn't renegotiate Pippen's salary and said he was willing to trade him. He's the one who angered the players by saying "organizations win championships." The documentary shows just how relentless the players were of making fun of him.

Is this fair? Probably not. Krause died in 2017. He can't defend himself now. He probably wanted a bit more credit than what he got. He was the one who got the band together. But the docuseries is showing that he's the one who wanted to break them apart.

All I can say is, if you love basketball and love greatest of all time discussions, watch "The Last Dance."

Independent film shows finesse

BY HANNAH SCHULZ
Head Copy Editor

In the Arts & Entertainment section, we've seen movie reviews for plenty of big-name films, but I wish to honor those with lesser recognition: independent movies.

I want to ease into this mini-series with an indie film that you may have already heard of: "The Crying Game."

This 1992 film was directed by Irishman Neil Jordan and takes place during Ireland's fight for independence from the British Crown. It stars Stephen Rea as Fergus, an Irish Republican Army (IRA) member, and Forest Whitaker in one of his infamous roles as Jody, a captured British soldier.

This film initially tanked when released in the U.K., but did very well across the pond in the U.S. It is infamous for its insane plot twist, which shocked audiences at the time of release. I, of course, won't tell you what that is. You'll just have to watch it yourself. Be warned, though, it completely threw me for a loop.

This movie is both a war story and a love story, and it balances both elements well. Seeing the development of Fergus and Jody's unlikely friendship and its inevitable demise is memorable for its simplicity and the way it



Photo courtesy of Rogerebert.com

Classic indie film, "The Crying Game," combines seamless cinematography, phenomenal acting, intriguing plot twists and dynamic multi-dimensional characters to create a story that weaves together themes of love and war.

stings at the end. The treatment of Dil's character is also handled well, especially for that time period.

All characters, save the ruthless IRA members, are multi-dimensional, just like real people, which a lot of writers struggle to do effectively. Maybe that's why it won the Oscar for Best Original Screenplay in 1993. It's an original story unlike anything I've ever seen before, which is something that makes it special.

As far as technical elements, I find the cinematography to be smooth and

seamless. Mostly you want camera moves to be unnoticeable or else be taken out of the story. I wish there was a greater shot variety, but every shot in the film is precise and purposeful. This film made the viewing experience pleasant, especially since the movie is older than most Xavier students.

You'll also notice that during the aforementioned plot twist, the camera focuses on Dil and her emotions rather than Fergus, which is incredibly forward-thinking. Choosing a shot angle, whom to focus on, focal

length — it's all difficult and can make or break a film. This cinematography doesn't make the film, but it's far from breaking it.

The acting is also phenomenal. Rea in particular is convincing, and he handles Fergus' complexity and emotions as you'd expect though the ups and downs of this movie. Fergus is a complex character with different motivations, and Rea juggles those like a true professional.

Jaye Davidson, who plays Dil, is typically not thought of as an actor, and now works in the fashion industry. Con-

sidering the importance of Dil's character, the decision to go with someone who isn't known in the acting world was a thoughtful choice. Davidson is phenomenal in this role.

Whitaker, despite being American, is an interesting choice for Jody. Aside from his nationality, he's not what you'd picture when thinking of an English soldier. I was not fully convinced by him. I had a hard time seeing him as an English soldier who wanted to fight the Irish. Then again, this film thrives off of defying expectations, so maybe that's the point.

Aside from that, Whitaker added depth to the character. From Jody's good-natured humor to death-fearing sobs, Whitaker put more into his character that it might have otherwise lacked. He balances out my expectations with his overall performance.

This movie has been one of my all-time favorites since I watched it a few years ago. It highlights an important and formative time in Ireland's history, has phenomenal acting and features themes and plots that are still important and relevant 28 years later.

And here's the good news—it's on Netflix.

Total score:



Video games to escape quarantine boredom

BY JACK DUNN
Campus News Editor

In this time of shelter in place, I have found myself with the time to finally get through the backlog of video games that I have been meaning to play. I know that there are many who are in this similar situation, so here is a guide on what to consider playing when there is nothing else going on.

My favorite type of game genre is the open-world adventure. I love having a giant map, allowing me to go wherever I want to, building up skills and gaining new abilities along the way. "Red Dead Redemption 2" was recently on sale, and it's the game that I have been spending the most time playing since coming home.

The world the game throws you into is not only beautiful to look at, but makes you feel like you are really in the dying old west. That's what I love about this genre of games. Some other games I'd recommend from this genre: "Assassins Creed" ("Origins," "Odyssey," "Black Flag"), "Grand Theft Auto" and any of the "Batman: Arkham games."

A great way to still interact

with people when you have to be apart is through online multiplayer games. None may do it better than the battle royale genre.

Now, I don't need to tell you how popular "Fortnite" is: You probably already know that. All I know is once you find a real squad to play with and a game that suits you, you will be left with endless fun.

While I have fallen out of playing "Fortnite" these days, the boys and I have been playing a lot of "Call of Duty: Warzone". It combines everything I love about "Call of Duty" (the gunplay, namely) and smashes it with the last-man-standing formula of battle royale. I'm proud to say that our efforts have not been fruitless and we have gotten several victories (mostly past 2 a.m.).

When my internet connection is spotty and it makes it difficult to play online games, I love to play a story based linear game.

Story-based games are different from the open world games, in that the story takes place while you are moving from point A to point B. There may be some choice in the direction the player can go, but



Photo courtesy of Playstation.com

Many avid video game players spend their time in quarantine exploring new worlds and fearlessly conquering adversaries. The realistic scenery, the dynamic storytelling and the camaraderie intensify the gaming experience.

generally speaking the game is pointing you in the direction it wants you to go.

My favorite example of this is the "Bioshock" series. In each game you are thrown into a new world with a simple goal in mind: escape the city.

But what makes these types of games great is the ability to tell its story through exploration. You might find audio diaries of characters you interact with that tell you how they got there and what their motivations are. The scenery around you tells

you how people lived their daily lives. It's things that you can't do in a movie or a book that allows the player to feel like they are participating in the story. Some other games from this genre that I'd recommend are: The "Uncharted" series, "The Last of Us" and "God of War" (2018).

As a sport management major, the lack of sports has had a profound effect on the entertainment I consume. In 2020, sports games are more realistic than ever and offer the most in terms of game-play experience.

Want to build a team of the greatest players from around the league? Play the game's ultimate team mode. Maybe you want to start out as a rookie and try to become a Hall of Famer? Try out the games player creation mode. Perhaps you simply want to play a regular exhibition game between a current roster and one of the legendary ones. This is all possible in modern sports games.

While I play mostly MLB The Show 20, you can't go wrong with "Madden," "NBA 2K20" and "NHL 20."

'90s sitcoms still seem to resonate

BY SYDNEY SANDERS
Op-Eds Editor

A few weeks ago, I did a review of some of the most classic "Disney Channel" sitcoms. While that was a fun tribute to many of our childhoods, I failed to review some of my favorite shows of all time. You know the shows that would come on after "Disney Channel" hours were over, or "Nickelodeon" turned into "Nick at Night?" Yeah, those shows.

'90s sitcoms are timeless. I always felt somewhat rebellious as a kid when I was up so late at night that George Lopez was jumping across my screen. So, while we've been gifted an abundance of time to catch up with old traditions, here's a review of some of our most classic throwback shows to binge-watch for when Disney just isn't cutting it.

"Saved by the Bell"

"Saved by the Bell" is like the more playful version of "Boy Meets World." It's a classic high school sitcom with a fun-loving cast. What's not to like? The only thing keeping the show from receiving five stars is the corniness. Nonetheless, "Saved by the Bell" has all of the sitcom essentials: friendship, love, drama and awesome '90s fashion.

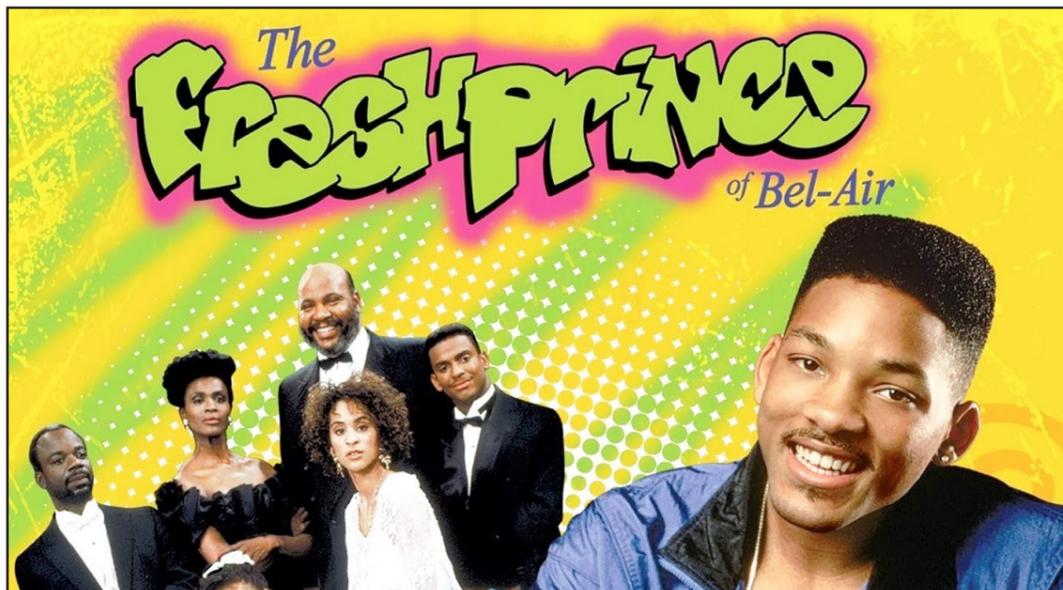


Photo courtesy of Huffingtonpost.com

Many longtime fans of '90s sitcoms have jumped at the chance to revisit them and reminisce during this period of quarantine. The shows' comedy, storytelling, relatability, light-heartedness and complexity make them timeless.

As an added bonus, Mario Lopez's dimples can be seen throughout the series.



"Seinfeld"

"Seinfeld" is genuinely funny and something I still watch regularly. Each of the four main characters are complex, funny and a complete mess, keeping the show entertaining and unpredictable.

The sitcom is light-hearted for the most part and a comedy at its roots, but also

doesn't shy away from making a joke about an occasional tough topic.

If you're in the category of people who only watch "Friends" and not "Seinfeld," you're missing out.



"The Nanny"

Fran Fine was the perfect opposite for the family she happened upon. She's the bright, real, fun and loud nanny to three children of a stuck-up British single dad.

Just by reading that short description, you can probably tell there is an inevitable love story, right? Even though the show is predictable, it's witty, entertaining, exaggerated and a classic tribute to '90s fashion.



"Full House"

Just about everyone I know watched "Full House" growing up, and while I feel like I should give the show a higher rating because it was

on for so long, I just can't get over the cheesiness of it.

It's a single dad with three daughters and some crazy uncles, so the show had some potential and even a few good episodes. But every episode was met with a life lesson and another cliché.

"Full House" was redundant and not worth the watch. "Fuller House," the recently-produced reboot, is especially not worth the watch and was a real disappointment.



"The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air"

If you try to say that you don't know all of the words to the theme song, you're lying. It's a classic storyline of trying to fit in somewhere you don't, but if your family was super rich and lived in Los Angeles Not only was the show funny, it dealt with serious subjects and was one of the first sitcoms with a predominately African American cast.

"The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" broke TV boundaries in the '90s and still remains a captivating and inspiring show.



Opinion: "The Bachelor" begs for queer representation

BY KATE FERRELL
Staff Writer

All of my life I have had many guilty pleasures—cheesy romance novels, bad rom coms and, above all, trashy reality TV.

Most recently, these loves have materialized into a new obsession: "The Bachelor." What started as a way to bond with my college roommates has turned into a fascination that I cannot quite explain.

Each Monday of the spring semester was spent sitting on the edge of my seat waiting for another catfight, snarky remark or romantic kiss to grace my screen. Even though I saw immediate problems with the series, I could not bring myself to stop watching.

However, the problem I was never quite able to get over was the clear lack of queer representation on the show. Now don't get me wrong, I could write a whole essay about all of the various body types, identities and races that are neglected by the series, but I've found the lack of queer representation is the elephant in the room no one seems to want to address.

As a cisgender, straight woman, I am often told this is not my fight to pick, but as an ally to the LGBTQ+ communi-



Photo courtesy of Thedailybeast.com

Though the current popularity of "The Bachelor" is undoubtable, some fans lament the heteronormativity and lack of queer representation in the framework of the show, and call for a change that would bring diversity to the franchise.

ty I cannot sit by and watch such a large group of people be denied representation on one of the most-watched reality TV shows of all time.

"The Bachelor's" 24th season just wrapped up in March and its sister show, "The Bachelorette," has aired an equally impressive 13 seasons. All the contestants, except one, have identified as heterosexual.

If you have managed to avoid the massive phenomenon that is "The Bachelor" franchise and its iron hands

of temptation, I applaud you. The show functions on fairly simple premises. Each season, around 30 contestants compete through a series of one-on-one dates, cocktail parties and group activities for the heart of a member of the opposite sex. By the end, one contestant ends up affianced and, coincidentally, more popular on social media.

This also happens within eight weeks of filming, so as you can imagine, these re-

lationships aren't often successful long term.

Perhaps it made sense that in a pre-Obergefell v. Hodges world, there would only be heterosexual couples on "The Bachelor." What would be the end-goal for same-sex ones if not marriage? A civil union? A participation trophy and a goody bag?

However, the legalization of gay marriage in all 50 states was crucial to the expansion of rights among members of the LGBTQ+ community ev-

erywhere, and it means that there are no stipulations as to who can and cannot enjoy the end goal of "The Bachelor:" marriage.

I don't know about the other members of Bachelor Nation, but I think that I would almost be more excited to watch a show centered around a gay man or woman looking for love. Especially after Peter's disaster of a season, I am ready for something new, exciting and more representative of all the different ways love can look in the world.

Having a queer identity displayed on ABC, one of the most influential and broadcasted television networks to date, would not only be a huge step forward for the expansion of the networks audience diversity, but it would also be a large step for queer rights, acceptance and representation in modern media.

This change probably won't happen next season, or even five seasons from now, but I can say confidently that if this elephant isn't acknowledged soon, it will stay in the room forever.

Perhaps one day, hopefully sometime soon, "The Bachelor" will break free of its exclusionary heteronormativity and finally show love in all ways, not just the ones that seem better for ratings.

My Dearest Wylie Marsellus,

Word has gotten back to me that you are shackled up near Lake MacDonald in Montana, waiting for a harsh storm to pass you by. The rest of us are staying in place in Little Rock. There's a bug going around making everyone sick so they want us to stay in for now.

We've been playing a lot of cards to pass the time. I can finally win a few rounds since you're not here peeking at other people's cards. You wouldn't be so hot these days, anyway. We've all mutually agreed that everyone is cheating. It just makes the game more interesting at this point.

When you find your way back down to the Rock after all of this, I'll make sure to take you down to the saloon for some song and dance. Don't worry about saving your funds either, it will be on my dime. Just make sure you're brushing up on your piano. There's not much I wouldn't give to hear that sweet tune you always play; something by Chopin, I believe.

In other news, someone shot Sheriff Pat Garrett; the low life who took Billy from us back in New Mexico. Rumor has it that it was Wayne Brazel, but quite frankly, I don't trust the news that comes from that area these days. They also said he did it in self-defense. Now, that is the biggest crock of cow dung I've ever heard.

Anyway, I pray that this letter can reach there fast enough to let you know that you're in the prayers of your folks in Little Rock. Stay safe and hang in there.

God Bless,
Joseph Cotton

FICTIONARY

YOUR WEEKLY WELL OF WACKY WORDS

BY TESS BREWER
Staff Writer

Yee-naw (yee-NAW): When the wild west is not at its wild best; a failure to vibe

Impasserado (im-pass-er-AH-doh): Just one chill and laid back buckaroo; most at ease when sitting lazily on a horse

Fariddle (farr-ll-dull): Uncanny ability to pass gas that sounds like the strum of a fiddle, a very attractive trait in the old west

Bullman (bull-MAN): A fully-grown cowboy

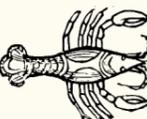
Arachmare (A-rack-mare): A rare condition which inflicts one with continued nightmares, all exclusively containing the giant steam powered spider from the 1999 film Wild Wild West (starring Will Smith)



Aries: Y'all best be practicin' your social distancin'. We don't wanna be spreadin' round scarlet fever!



Taurus: That lady you've been seein' is nothin' but trouble. She's got a heart as prickly as the cactus I walked into this morning.



Gemini: Why don't you pick up some more songs on that there guitar of yours? Your posse is tired of hearing "I Wish I Was in Dixie" every night 'round the fire.



Cancer: It's understandable to hate our president at this moment in history. Just when you think he'll yield, the man raises taxes so he can construct a transcontinental railroad! Thanks, Lincoln.



Leo: The sun ain't happy with you, son. From now on, it'll always be high noon for you. Good luck winning all 'em duels.



Virgo: Don't get your britches all in a bunch cause some chucklehead called you a cowboy. He ain't callin you one of those gun-wielding hooligans, he's complimenting you for being a hardworking member of the dairy industry.



Libra: This week, you're gonna catch yourself a sweet business deal in an unexpected place. It might not be what you went in for, but trust me — it's the best thing you'll catch from that brothel.



Scorpio: Ole' Mad Dog Wayne Brazel is reckoning to cheat at your upcoming game of Texas Hold 'Em, but it won't look like anything to you. He'll have an ace up his sleeve, and the trick is to play so bad that he wins the whole pot and leaves the table before he has a chance to play it.



Sagittarius: This is the first time in ten years that this here town went a month without a shootout in one of the saloons. It shouldn't take a quarantine, folks.



Capricorn: Today might not be the best day to go to Tosche Station to pick up some power converters. Maybe spend some time fixing up those droids with your uncle instead.



Aquarius: There's gold in them thar hills if you're brave enough to go lookin'. But first, go look in on your Capricorn friend; that ole' kook can't seem to stay on theme.



Pisces: Stay outta trouble, you don't wanna have to hear from Deputy Graham. Now, you may be wondering, "If Father Graham's the deputy, then who's the sheriff?" God himself.

WILD AND WESTERN ONLINE GAMES TO TRY

Smokin' Barrels

newgrounds.com/portal/view/410537



Rustle up your best point-and-click skills for this shooter, where you play as a young up-and-comer on the duel scene. Try to make your way up the ladder of gunslingers before you run out of money or lose one too many standoffs.

Long Way

newgrounds.com/portal/view/584831

We've all played Bloons Tower Defense. This game is that but with cowboys. It's a little violent (especially for an "E" rating from Newgrounds) but if you can look past that it's a fun cowboy-themed way to kill time.

