

Remote learning brings questions

Administrators consider pass/fail grading and refunds for room and board

By KEVIN THOMAS
Editor-in-Chief

Xavier University administrators are facing a bundle of questions after deciding on March 12 to move to a remote learning format for the rest of the spring semester.

These questions range from uncertainty about how the decision was made to whether the university will offer the option for pass or fail grading and refunds.

The decision to move to remote learning was made by the COVID-19 Response Team. The team began monitoring the spread of the virus in early January.

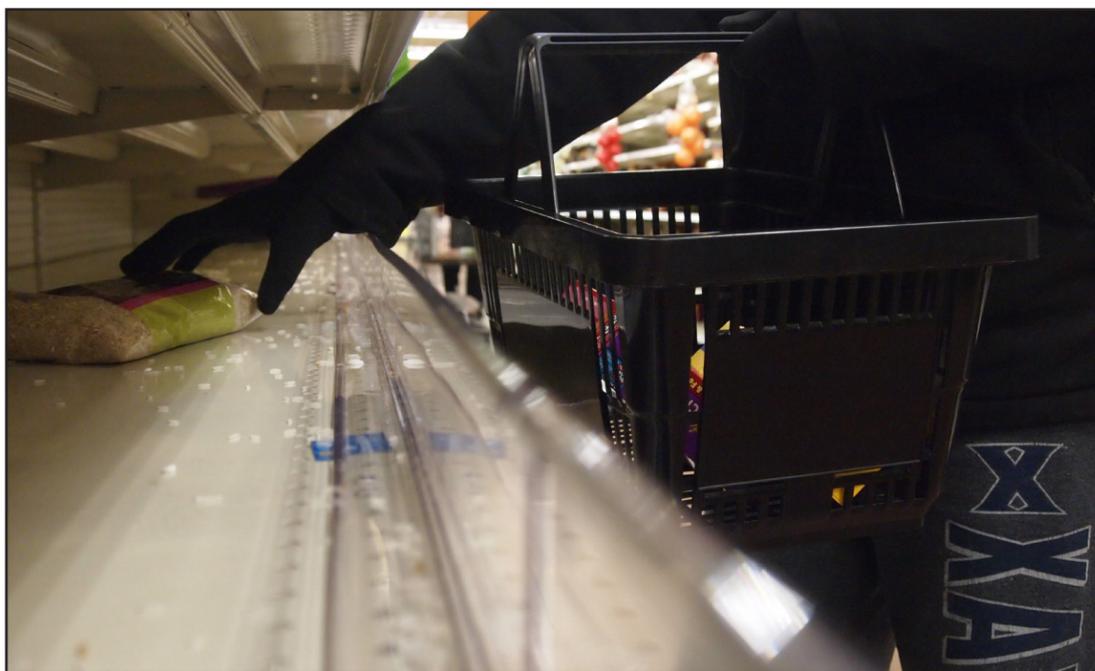
The task force, which is led by Vice President of Risk Management Jeff Coleman, includes a handful of administrators, including Chief Student Affairs Officer Dave Johnson, Xavier Police Chief Rob Warfel, TriHealth Associate David Rigdon and more.

The team is a subgroup of the Campus Emergency Response Team (CERT) which has formed task forces in response to other viruses, such as the Ebola virus and Swine Flu, but has never responded as comprehensively.

"We've never had as robust of a response because we've never faced as big of a challenge," Johnson said.

CERT makes recommendations to Father Michael Graham, president, on how the university should act, but Graham makes the ultimate decision.

According to Johnson, the rapidly changing situation prevented thorough communication with student leadership as the pace of action and decision making altered when Governor Mike DeWine recommended universities move to remote learning on



Newswire photo by Heather Gast

The COVID-19 pandemic has left some grocery stores empty like the one above being patronized by an alumnus, while Xavier's response has filled students with questions about what moving entirely to remote learning will mean.

March 10, and the task force realized the consequences of a temporary switch to remote learning.

"By (March 12), we were looking to the future and we realized that it was really better to probably make a more comprehensive and long-term decision, and we decided to move to remote learning for the rest of the semester," Johnson said.

However, this decision came as surprise to all in the Xavier community, with the exception of the task force and some other administrators, as faculty, students and staff were informed of the decision at the same time.

"Stakes were high, and we wanted to get all the information out to everyone absolutely as quickly as possible," Johnson said.

This quick change to classes and campus has led to uncertainty in the student body regarding what this means for grading. In particular, many students wonder whether

this would mean Xavier will offer a pass or fail option instead of letter grades.

On Tuesday, March 24, a student started a petition on change.org to have the university provide the option to pass or fail grading for the spring semester.

"These changes in the removal of face-to-face instructions and the relocation of students back home have created various barriers to maintaining the same academic footings," the petition reads. "...Due to the circumstances of each individual student, Xavier University's leaders should consider the students' proposal to provide the OPTION of pass/fail grading for the Spring 2020 semester."

As of midnight on March 26, the petition had received 2,461 signatures.

Johnson said that the conversation is happening among academic administrators, but that ultimately, it may be up to the instructors

to decide.

"One mechanism by which some faculty may well choose to also be supportive is to offer pass/fail for some students," Johnson said. "My hunch is that it won't be across the board, one way or the other, because different academic programs are very different."

Despite this uncertainty, Johnson said he believes there will be some kind of decision made in the upcoming week, but it may not be a campus-wide option.

"We're going to have to wait and see what happens at Xavier, but it probably won't be a binary this or that," Johnson said.

Another concern that students may have at this time is in regard to refunds for room and board. The university is currently examining this question and Johnson hopes to have a definite answer to send to the community by April 17.

"We know that's on peo-

ple's minds and that's on our minds," Johnson said. "There's certainly a willingness and determination to do something for students."

While there is consideration for refunds for room and board, Johnson said that there will not be a refund in tuition for students, despite the sudden shift to remote learning as opposed to in-person classes.

"Certainly everyone regrets the shift in the format," Johnson said. "Nonetheless, the university is still doing its best to deliver against the promised content. It's just in a new medium."

This new medium extends beyond classes, and includes many campus resources, such as counseling services and peer management, which will also be held in online formats.

While this semester has changed, and the summer semester will be affected, the fall semester will go on as planned and Johnson is excited to see the Xavier community continue to support each other, even if from a distance.

"I lament that the semester and on campus experience ended when it did and how it did," Johnson said.

"I think spring is a magic time on campus, and I will miss not sharing it with students. I will miss that students aren't sharing it with their peers in person. I am very eager for us all to give it our all to build community online and to stay connected and to be creative and committed to our community even from afar. I think we can pull it off. But I'm really excited to getting back to being together on campus."

More information can be found on the Xavier website at Xavier.edu/coronavirus/ and in the pages that follow.

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Fine art and lab classes have moved to an online format. Find out here what that means.



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Study abroad students were suddenly summoned home, cutting many trips short.



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Xavier alumnus Savin Mattozzi gives an account of his life in Italy while in quarantine.



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Some of our seniors say good-bye in these powerful pieces about the Xavier experience.



SGA transitions to remote format

SGA responds to COVID-19; begins to plan for the fall with virtual meetings

By HUNTER ELLIS
Staff Writer

While Xavier's Student Government Association (SGA) has not met since campus shut down, President Thomas Wehby assured that business will continue in the coming weeks as important business is conducted.

"We are currently working with our advisers in order to create a system that would ensure that SGA will be able to function in an effective manner," Wehby said. "(This will) most likely result in on-line video meetings every Monday."

The SGA executives and advisers plan to set up the online meetings in such a way that they will still be open to the public.

Meanwhile, in the immediate wake of the coronavirus, the executives have taken on several initiatives in the interest of students.

"We have been working with the university... on projects that aim to help students in this time of need," Wehby said.

"One thing that we are pushing for is a switch to a pass/fail system of grading, as well as working with organizations that would be willing to provide housing for those students still in Cincinnati that are in need of it," he said.



Photo courtesy of Thomas Wehby

Xavier's Student Government Association (above) will begin to hold their weekly meetings online, discussing the university's response to COVID-19, pursuing new initiatives and preparing for students' return to campus in the fall.

The Senate also intends to start a conversation with university officials about financial returns to students.

Despite these efforts, some students expressed concerns about SGA's response to COVID-19.

"I haven't gotten any contact from SGA since the fall-out from the coronavirus," sophomore economics major Mitchell Nee said. "I expect SGA to be preparing for next semester and continue working for the students despite this epidemic."

Individual senators have also expressed that their committee work and individual projects will likely be set aside while the university is shut down.

"While there is still potential that Academic Affairs could continue to work on our committee projects, I feel that it will be significantly more difficult to coordinate meetings with the various staff that we need to be involved in our initiatives," Senator Fernando Arguello said.

"On a personal note — I think that the same problem will apply. I believe it's likely that many projects will need to be suspended until next semester to ensure that everything is done right."

In some instances, campus shutting down has halted an SGA committee's progress completely, including Student Organizations Committee (SOC), which had just be-

gun the budgeting process for clubs.

According to Senator Ryan Dhaliwal, SOC was only able to meet with a handful of clubs to discuss their budget for next year.

"With our committee being off campus, our adviser Dustin will be making the budget allocations and we all are extremely confident in his decisions," he said.

Similar to Arguello, Dhaliwal expressed frustration with the suddenly halted progress of his individual senatorial project.

"As a senator and minority on campus, I was hoping to possibly start my own club or invest more in organizations that promote and encourage

on-campus diversity," Dhaliwal said.

"I will continue to pursue different avenues to incorporate inclusion and different perspectives at Xavier, but not being on campus has definitely taken away valuable face-to-face meetings," he continued.

Wehby acknowledged that while the physical barrier may provide challenges for SGA, it is something necessary for the safety of the students.

He offered reassurance that despite these challenges, SGA will continue to do its best to serve the students and prepare the university for the semesters to come.

Wehby also assured that projects like the Feminine Care Product initiative, which was approved earlier in the semester, remain on track to be completed once students return to campus.

"After this national crisis has settled, we as a community will need to be able to come back home to a university ready to continue where we left off," Wehby said.

"This is why I cannot stress the importance of making sure that all students are staying focused and safe during this time of crisis," Wehby continued. "We as an SGA Board will be doing our best to make sure that Xavier University is ready for when our family returns."

Fine art and lab classes continue to connect online



Photo courtesy of Xavier University

Instead of being canceled, lab classes are experimenting with new tactics to digitalize their curriculums to function in a remote learning environment.

By MO JUENGER
Staff Writer

With the decision to move to remote learning for the remainder of the semester, certain classes have had to develop creative strategies to educate students online. In particular, music, theater and lab professors have had to overcome some unique obstacles to translate their curriculums remotely.

In the science departments, lab courses are moving toward online instructional videos teaching students how to gather and utilize data.

Professors within various

science departments are using YouTube and homemade videos in conjunction with PowerPoint presentations to develop new methods of "hands-on" educational experiences.

Chemistry professor Mary Stroud explained her modified lab format in this new academic era.

"I guide them through the procedure, they go to this video, look at how this procedure would have been done," Stroud said. "I later tell them what the value would be and they do the calculations as if they had done the calculations themselves — it's as

close as we can get."

Chemistry Department Chair Richard Mullins noted that the department's labs were trying to remain as uniform as possible, despite disparities in online education experience.

"We've tried to standardize (the learning experience) across the sections mainly because we don't want to give different students different experiences," Mullins said of the many General Chemistry Lab sections the department runs.

"The hands-on experience of using an instrument... there's really nothing that can replicate that in a remote (lab)," Mullins said.

Senior music major Maria Skill noted that virtual classrooms allow her to interact with fellow students. Choir classes are utilizing Canvas discussion boards so students can articulate their musical interpretations.

Certain music classes will still incorporate performative elements into their learning. Symphonic Wind Ensemble will be recording music separately for a group assignment, as well as reflecting on and responding to other musical pieces.

Other music performance

classes will be focusing more heavily on music theory and history for the rest of the year.

Similar to music classes, theater classes will retain performative elements for the remainder of the year.

First-year theater performance and Philosophy, Politics and the Public double major Annaleese Cahill explained that in vocal classes, students will be sent prerecorded audio tracks and warm-ups that they can then sing along to through Zoom.

In her auditions class, Cahill will be self-recording and uploading videos of monologues and songs. The class will culminate with a series of

online video auditions.

The class will also hold conferences with directors and playwrights from across the country, allowing the students to speak with industry professionals who intended to visit their classroom before the campus shutdown.

Stroud worried that the rigor of her courses could not be maintained during remote learning, but took solace in knowing the struggle was a collective experience of the Xavier academic community.

"We're doing the best that we can and it won't be the same," Stroud said. "But we're doing the best that we can under these circumstances."



Photo courtesy of Xavier University

For the remainder of the semester, choir and other music ensembles at Xavier will post on Canvas' discussion boards in lieu of meeting physically.

Study abroad ends prematurely

As a result of COVID-19, students studying across the globe are sent home

By **MO JUENGER**
Staff Writer

Short- and long-term study abroad students have been sent home during the past two weeks as concerns over COVID-19 make foreign travel increasingly dangerous. International students at Xavier, in response, are returning home, remaining in Cincinnati or on campus.

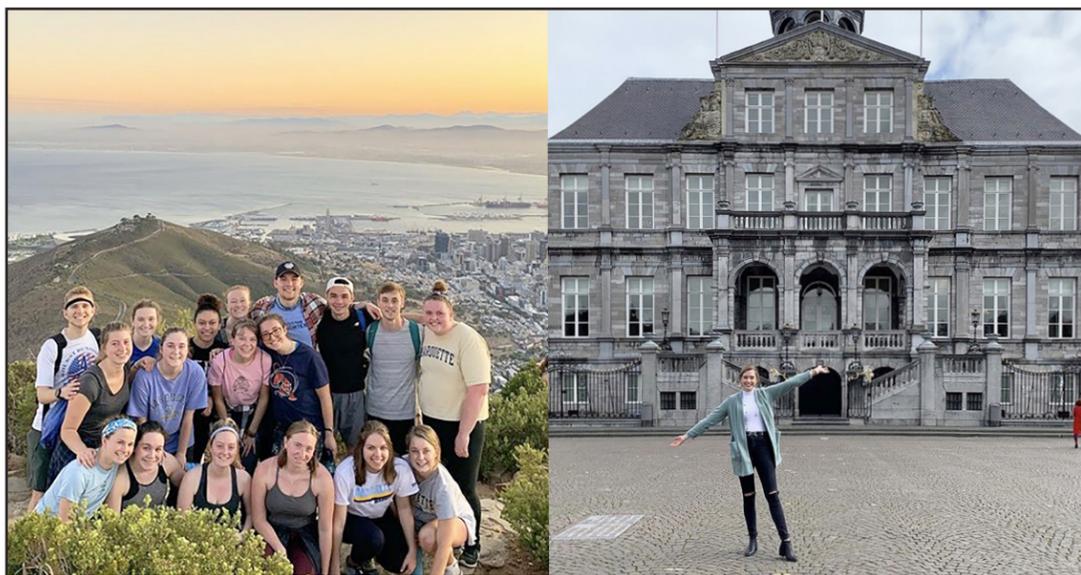
The Center for International Education (CIE), in coordination with partner colleges for semester-long study abroad students, began notifying students that their abroad programs would be cancelled before spring break.

Students studying in Italy and South Korea were asked to return home, though at least one student has petitioned to remain abroad.

Ben Foley, a sophomore psychology major who intended to spend his spring semester in Cape Town, South Africa, through a Marquette University partnership, noted that a lack of communication created further stress for students abroad.

Foley explained that students were told on March 18 they had one week to find a way home. However, with most airlines shutting down, everyone on his trip left South Africa before Monday.

The lack of communication from Xavier and Marquette made travel home difficult for Foley, alongside other stu-



Photos courtesy of Instagram

Ben Foley (left, second from right in top row) and Amy Steeno (right) were both studying abroad this semester when COVID-19 forced them home earlier than expected. Robbed of a whole semester abroad, they are left disappointed.

dents on the trip.

"We were really never given many updates," Foley said of both universities. "There was a lot of speculation. We would get an email from Marquette or Xavier, giving us updates of what was happening around the world with coronavirus, but never telling us to expect to be home by a certain time, so that made things pretty difficult."

Sophomore psychology major Amy Steeno was abroad in Maastricht, Netherlands, when the U.S. issued its travel ban warning. Her partner university offered to continue to support foreign students, but Xavier requested that students on her trip return home.

"It came to the point where

we all knew that Europe was not going to get better and I'd rather be home, in case I got sick," Steeno said of the choice between petitioning the school to stay, or returning to the U.S. "No one wanted to be stuck in Europe and not have the opportunity to go home."

A concerning element of Steeno's study abroad cancellation is the idea that she may not be able to remain a full-time student if her partner university cancels fourth-quarter classes.

"I do feel like I don't know the answers. I just don't think staffs really know how to deal with it. It's a pandemic, it doesn't happen very often," Steeno said. "There are rumors and everything, but

you just have to be patient. I know it will get resolved."

Refunds for study abroad students are unclear at the moment. All possible refunds would come from partner universities and would either be transferred directly to the student or through Xavier.

CIE Director Kim Diehl noted that the transitions for international students have been difficult, but the internal CIE community and the Xavier community at large have been quick to action.

According to Diehl, international students who lived on campus this semester were allowed to remain in student housing given their extenuating circumstances. Some students who have family in Cincinnati are stay-

ing in the area, while many have returned home during the past weeks.

Junior Student Government Association Vice President and international student Mahnoor Zahra noted that the CIE has further assisted international students through frequent communications and student visa documentations.

She also stated that Residence Life, alongside other faculty and campus figures, personally reached out to many international students during the transition period.

Diehl expressed gratitude towards the continuing sense of community within the CIE. She noted that students and staff have provided one another with trips to the grocery store and checked up on one another.

The CIE is beginning to plan the continuation of regular programming, to the extent that social distancing and remote learning will allow. Diehl announced that the CIE aims to continue its weekly coffee hours and upcoming tax workshop virtually and hopes to conduct some in-person activities for available students when restrictions lessen.

"I don't think that student interest has waned," Diehl said of CIE programming. "Our office is working to make sure students are being taken care of... We're just taking things one day at a time."

Virtual photo-op: passing our time in quarantine

"How are you coping with social distancing and being away from campus?"

By **CHARLIE GSTALDER**
Staff Writer



"As a commuter student, I haven't had to experience the change of suddenly moving back home, but not being able to go to school and see all my friends and be in class in person has impacted me. I would rather see people in person instead of having to contact over technology any day, and I work best learning inside the classroom."

Nadia Tawfik
First-year nursing major



"I've been able to cope with social distancing by creating the structure I had on campus by setting aside a time frame each day to do my work and a designated area to do it to avoid laying in my bed or procrastinating my work. I also have become more active on social media to keep in touch with my friends and we're starting to send mail with art, postcards and other things from our homes to share with each other."

Mercy Torres
First-year social work major



"I really enjoy spending time with people so social distancing has been difficult... I've been FaceTiming or talking on the phone with friends to make myself feel less cooped up while I'm stuck at home. As far as school, it's been a bit challenging transitioning to remote learning full-time but I'm hoping that as each class' expectations become more defined it'll be easier to schedule my time a bit better so I'll actually be productive."

Kiera Wolkins
Junior communication studies major



"I'm taking guitar masterclasses from all of my favorite guitarists on pickupmusic.com to pass the time and enjoying self-care habits that I don't get to do when I am running around campus all day. Still super stressed about all of the assignments I have left though, haha."

Don Moore
Junior Philosophy, Politics and the Public major



"As a creative, an extrovert and someone diagnosed with ADHD, quarantine is somewhat of a 'worst case scenario' for me. I've been trying to keep in touch with people as much as possible: FaceTime, social gaming, group dinners with the few guys left in the house. It's the best we got. At the end of the day, much of what I do and where I thrive relies on a certain level of social connectedness that is simply not possible now."

Mitch Tapia
Senior graphic design major

DeWine defines COVID-19 directives

"We are at war," governor institutes stay-at-home order; postpones primary

BY MO JUENGER
Staff Writer

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine has been at the forefront of instituting measures to slow the spread of COVID-19, including shutting down Ohio's public schools, postponing the state's presidential primary and putting the state on a stay-at-home order, similar to other states' shelter-in-place orders, effective March 23 until April 6.

"We are at war," DeWine said in a press conference announcing the order. "And in a time of war, we have to make sacrifices."

Ohio has 704 confirmed cases of COVID-19 as of 2 p.m. on March 25. There are 182 hospitalized with the virus and 10 confirmed deaths in the state. Hamilton County has 48 confirmed cases.

The order is the most recent closure and mandates that all Ohioans discontinue nonessential travel. This mandate comes after weeks of limitations and closures across the state.

DeWine asked universities to transition to online learning Tuesday, March 10, to which Xavier complied. That next Sunday, March 15, Ohio became the first state to limit all bars and restaurants to through drive-thru or carry-out options.

Ohio was the first state to move all public K-12 schools to remote learning, starting Monday, March 16, and lasting for three weeks. DeWine noted in a press conference that day that he is currently unsure if schools will reopen this year. Kansas governor Laura Kelly was the first to mandate the closure of schools for the remainder of the school year on March 17.

DeWine originally prohibited gatherings of 100 and later 50 people or more to comply with the latest CDC recommendations. Currently citizens are encouraged to limit gatherings to 10 people



Ohio Governor Mike DeWine has taken several steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the state. His shelter-in-place order encourages Ohio citizens to stay home, and has led to shortages in grocery stores across the state.

or less.

DeWine recommended early Monday, March 16, that primary voting be delayed until June 2, the last possible day for primaries prior to the Democratic and Republican nominations.

An Ohio judge rejected DeWine's request to delay the primary, but DeWine later announced that Ohio Health Director Amy Acton would declare a health emergency in order to close the polls.

She noted that the delay was executed in order to prevent "widespread exposure" to the general population, including those most vulnerable to health complications associated with COVID-19.

The late call, however, threw poll workers into disarray.

Ultimately the Ohio was successfully postponed until June 2. While elections in Arizona, Florida and Illinois went ahead as planned, Georgia, Kentucky and Louisiana delayed theirs.

President Donald Trump noted in a press conference on Monday that he did not support postponing the primaries, but would ultimately leave it up to the states.

DeWine and Acton's shelter-in-place order mandated Sunday went into effect at midnight Tuesday morning. The order required all non-essential businesses to shut down and restricted most intrastate travel. Those who work in healthcare, the food and grocery industry, pharmacies, funeral homes, police officers and other first responders are the only employees allowed to attend work in person.

Exemptions to the travel rule include trips to the grocery store, medical facilities, pharmacies and obtaining necessary work or automobile supplies. Individuals can also leave their homes to assist others, including family, friends, pets, and exercise, as well as attend weddings and funerals.

Police officers in several counties have publicly announced that they will not actively pull over drivers to check that they are leaving for essential business. This contrast with other approaches by law enforcement, such as Hawaii citizens' possible \$5,000 fine for breaking their shelter-in-place order.

Other states have issued mandates, but many governors have issued only advisory messages and strong recommendations for citizens to remain in their homes.

New Mexico governor Michelle Lujan Grisham noted that her advisory was essentially the same as mandates which other states are enforcing. She stated, "This is quite frankly an instruction to stay home."

DeWine, who emphasized that the mandate should be called a stay-at-home order instead of a shelter-in-place order, shares this reticence of vocabulary with New York governor Andrew Cuomo. Cuomo requested that his state's mandate be thought as a pause, saying, "Words matter."

Ohio was the fourth state to make an order following California, New York and Illinois. Currently, 17 states have mandated shelter-in-place or stay-at-home orders for the entire state. Smaller municipalities such as counties and cities within 11 other states have mandated similar orders, affecting at least 175 million people.

In a press conference on March 24, Trump told reporters that he hoped to have shelter-in-place orders lifted by April 12, saying "I'd love to have the country opened up and ready to go by Easter."

Newswire Photo by Heather Gast

Week in Review

Toilet paper claw and virus tractors

- An English arcade owner has replaced the stuffed toys in his claw machine with toilet paper, hand sanitizer and soap (March 12).
- After the NCAA tournament was cancelled, the Florida Senate voted and passed a resolution declaring the Florida State Seminoles the 2020 NCAA champions (March 14).
- The president of Belarus has suggested that citizens ride tractors as a way to overcome the coronavirus. He said in an interview, "There, the tractor will heal everyone. The fields heal everyone" (March 16).
- Inmates of prisons in Ireland are now being provided with alcohol-free hand sanitizer in an attempt to keep inmates healthy while avoiding the production of moonshine (March 16).
- A restaurant in the suburbs of Chicago will now be giving out a free roll of toilet paper with every delivery or takeout order (March 18).



Photo courtesy of the White House Flickr

President Donald Trump instituted Federal guidelines to slow the virus.



Photo courtesy of SWNS

An English arcade owner has new prizes for their claw machine.

Feature: Xavier alum in Italy lockdown

Newswire alum Savin Mattozzi tells his story of living in Italy during the pandemic

BY SAVIN MATTOZZI
Former World Editor

Savin Mattozzi, a 2017 Xavier graduate in international studies and communication studies, is a freelance reporter in Naples, Italy. This is his personal story of life in the Italian coronavirus epicenter.

It started far away. Maybe you'd see a small article in the newspaper or a blip of a news bulletin as the bartender surfs the channels looking for a soccer game. Maybe you'd take a moment and think it's sad and hope it doesn't spread too much before returning to discussing how slippery the steps are at your friend's apartment and how they really need to talk to their landlord about fixing them.

The weeks went by and it didn't stop. It kept coming closer. Still, it wasn't here. It wasn't in our city, our region, our country. So, you kept going out, celebrating birthdays, going to protests and visiting your family in their village.

When it arrived in the north, you still didn't think much of it. "It's contained," you'd say. "It's in a little town that is in quarantine. No need to panic." You'd roll your eyes



Newswire photo by Savin Mattozzi

Italy has been under lockdown for two weeks in the government's effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The lockdown has led to a major disruption of everyday Italian life, as Xavier alumn Savin Mattozzi describes.

when you'd see an older woman in the subway covering her nose and mouth with a scarf. "They don't get it, it's not that serious."

And then everything happened so fast. It took one day, 24 hours, for everything to change. When the government closed Lombardy, the region that includes the city of Milan, people fled south in an ironic reversal of history. People packed train cars as if they were on the last train out of a war zone.

You'd see the number of people with masks jump and ask yourself, "Should I get one?" The generally calm atmosphere of the subway would become palpably tense. One person's refusal to open the last closed window on the train would send one woman screaming to the conductor to stop the train because we are all going to get sick and die.

The once amicable and loving people of Naples would start glaring at each other with suspicion and hostility.

In closed spaces like supermarkets, people would do a kind of dance to avoid being close to one another.

We knew what was coming when the prime minister got on television.

"There is no single red zone in Italy..." he said. "All of Italy is now a red zone."

You looked at one of your friends for comfort only to see him tearing up, eyes still locked on the television, trying to hold his composure.

Now, we need to carry permits to go grocery shopping. Leaving the house, even to throw the garbage away, feels like committing a crime.

Every day at 6 p.m., we turn on the television to see how many more people have died, how many more are sick and try to appreciate how many have recovered. As I write this, on March 19, we have

surpassed China in our death toll: 3,405 people and it's not slowing down.

Any break in the silence is enough to bring the whole neighborhood to their balconies. Thank God for the older women in my neighborhood who are now exclusively communicating to each other across the street by yelling jokes at each other.

"Marí... Marí... where are you?" a woman in her 70's screams out of her window, in Neapolitan. "Marí! Where are you?"

A window creaks open and a woman we can only assume is Marí responds "I'm here, I'm here! Where the hell else am I going to be?" The two exchange a laugh shared by the rest of the women on their balconies.

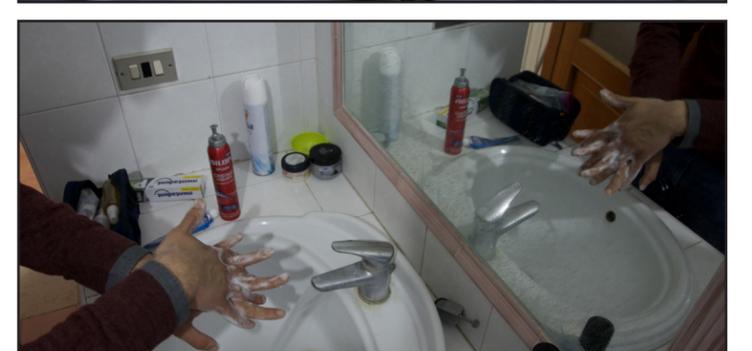
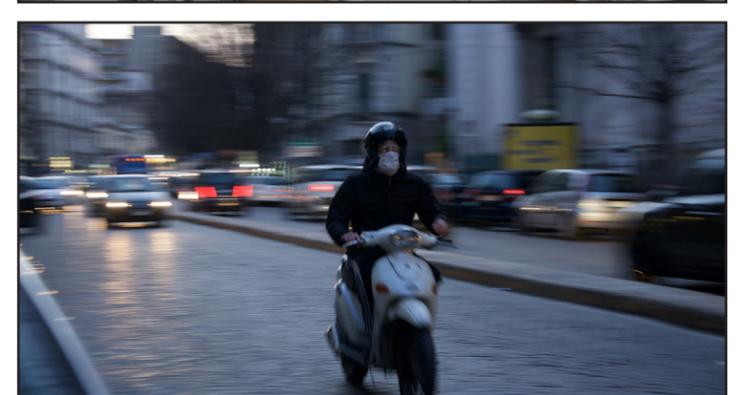
Some nights, the streets turn into an archetypal Neapolitan club, with classics like "O Sarracino" and "Tammurriata Nera" blasting throughout the neighborhood long enough that we temporarily forget the bizarre situation we are in.

We don't know when this will end. The April 3 deadline for the quarantine has been extended indefinitely. The coming weeks are going to be the hardest, but we will make it out of this. China reported zero new cases today and their direction is keeping us hopeful.

All we can do now is wait and keep on saying what we've been saying: *Andrà tutto bene*, everything will be ok.

Maybe if we repeat it enough it will become true.

Below are several of Savin's photos that capture what life has been like in Italy as the country quietly waits for the indefinite quarantine to end.



National Guard deployed to quarantined New Rochelle, NY

BY CHARLIE GSTALDER
Staff Writer

Members of the National Guard remain deployed in New Rochelle, NY, as cases of COVID-19 continue to grow.

The National Guard was activated by President Trump in New York, California and Washington on Sunday but has been active in New Rochelle since March 11.

As of Wednesday evening, New York has 30,800 confirmed cases. Westchester County, where New Rochelle is located, has 4,000 cases, the third-highest state total behind New York City and Nassau County.

Officials attribute the in-

state spread to a New Rochelle resident working as a lawyer in Manhattan. The resident was hospitalized on Feb. 22 and confirmed to have COVID-19 on March 3.

New York Governor Mario Cuomo announced a one-mile containment area around the resident's synagogue and deployed the National Guard.

The role of the National Guard has been to deliver food to quarantined families and meals to children who qualify for free lunch, cleaning and sanitizing public facilities, and setting up testing areas.

"We had to drive through (the area of containment) for groceries, and every few

blocks there's a cop just sitting in his car, probably to break up any groups of people," Billy Blancato, a sophomore finance major who lives in New Rochelle, said.

Niall Ryan, a New Rochelle resident who will be attending Wake Forest University in the fall, said the news coverage of the Area of Containment can be misleading.

"The pictures of 'life in the quarantine zone' circling on social media are actually of the testing facility, which is on the outskirts of town," Ryan explained.

Kate Ryan, a senior at The Ursuline School located within the Area of Containment, was unsurprised by the imposed restrictions. "The synagogue (the resident who tested positive for COVID-19) belongs to is literally a block away from my school... The week before we closed, our teachers had stopped speaking hypothetically so we were all prepared." She added that despite the highly publicized nature of the deployment, the National Guard is not readily present. "My friends and I went hunting for (the National Guard) two days later but everything seemed to be business as usual," Katie said.

"There really haven't been any big changes," Blancato said.



Photo courtesy of Twitter

The National Guard was sent to New Rochelle by President Donald Trump.

Being unapologetically myself

In a lot of senior op-eds, people talk about finding their place at Xavier. I never had that.

Even throughout high school, I was the social jumper: I fit in just enough with groups to get by, but never enough to feel like I truly belong. I've never had a ride-or-die group of friends, a 'How I



Hannah Schulz is a senior Digital Innovation, Film and Television major. She is the Head Copy Editor for the Newswire from Cincinnati. She has been a part of Newswire for three years.

Met Your Mother'-type group dynamic. That's what I longed for as a freshman, but I never found one.

The majority of the Xavier community is incredibly warm and welcoming. I've felt supported, cared for and encouraged by fellow students, faculty and alumni alike. I truly believe that Xavier is one of a kind, and leaving here will be a grieving process for me since the remainder of my senior year has been ripped away. Even so, I haven't found a group to be a part of, at least not completely.

I thought I'd found the perfect fit within various spaces on Xavier's campus, but I never found somewhere that I wasn't holding some of myself back. I've never felt comfortable enough to share who I am for various reasons. Sometimes it's my insecurities holding me back, sometimes

it's the reception I've gotten for previous attempts to relax. The puzzle pieces just haven't quite fit.

I have a hard time reading social cues, and I've felt somewhat alienated because of that.

It just doesn't come naturally to me like it does for others. I have

to work at it and consciously think about my interactions.

This makes me an incredibly awkward person. For a lot of people, I'm just a little bit too weird to be around often. Being painfully introverted also means I'm also not great at venturing out and speaking with people I don't already have some familiarity with.

Joining new clubs, for example, takes a lot out of me.

This social outcast feeling has been with me for a long time, and sometimes I feel like I miss out on things by not having that totally welcoming

and accepting group of people. I have people that love me and are there when I need them, but never that 'Friends'-esque group dynamic.

But honestly, I'm OK with that. I'm learning to be at peace with the fact that I never really found my "people" at Xavier. I don't have a Rachel to gossip with or a Joey to laugh with, but I have friends that are still irreplaceable, even if

I take that for granted sometimes.

And it's possible that I'll never find that group dynamic. I don't want to compromise who I am and who I want to be in order to fit into a mold. I don't want to bend and twist and contort parts of me in order to be who people want me to be. The hodge-podge of friends I have now are more than enough.

If you're struggling with finding your place like I am, take stock in what you do have and don't be afraid of reaching out. If our current world has proven anything, it's that people want to interact with others. You are worthy of love and acceptance. The people that matter the most accept you for all of you, and secretly, we are all just finding out who we are and where we fit. Just try and find those people who like the shape you're in.

I don't want to bend and twist and contort parts of me in order to be who people want me to be. The hodge-podge of friends that I have now are more than enough.

The only thing I know is that I know nothing

For many students, college is a time to find your home away from home. It's your first real sense of freedom, a place where lifelong friends are made and often the first glimpse of what you want to spend the rest of your life doing. It's exciting and scary and time to learn how to be a real adult.

Well, as I'm quickly approaching the end of my college career, I feel like I know less now than I did four years ago.

It's a good thing, really. I've lived in Cincinnati for 22 years and didn't leave my hometown for college. I was hesitant about coming to Xavier because I didn't want to miss out on the "college experience." But it turns out, even if you're only a 25-minute drive away from your childhood home, the experience is what you make it.

I was scared that I wasn't going to learn as much living

so close to home. I already knew Cincinnati like the back of my hand and I even knew a few students on campus, so my sense of freedom felt kind of like riding a bike for the first

time but with training wheels. Was I really independent if I had what felt like a huge safety net?

Turns out, training wheels can't teach you how to deal with a difficult professor or what food to avoid in the caf. You have to do it for yourself.

Xavier has become the fireplace within my home. It may seem like a small part of a whole house, but it's the centerpiece of my life right now — full of light and radiating warmth. It's a perfect place to have tough conversations and

to learn and grow in the comfort of your own community.

I've met some of the most compassionate, intelligent, lively and complex people in my life during the past four

years. Xavier is a magnet for people with a will to make a difference and a flourish. Each and every person I've interacted with at Xavier has left me with more to think about than the last.

My time at Xavier has helped me realize that I don't even know what I don't know yet. I didn't have that "ah-ha" moment where you finally know what you want to do with the rest of your life. I still have doubts every now and then about where my education will take me, sure. But

what's more powerful than the uncertainties are the invaluable lessons I learn everyday being a part of a community. I didn't expect to get so much out of a school that I was unsure about in my hometown. I guess in my own way I did leave the nest, my own little nest of insecurity. Being a part of Xavier, and especially Newswire, has given me the confidence to not know what's next and to be OK with that.

So, to the students and to the best advisor out there, John, who will keep the Newswire alive and well, savor every late Tuesday night and staff meeting (even when they feel endless). You never know when it'll be your last. Thank you all for being a part of my journey. Your sometimes outlandish and provocative opinions have taught me so much and made me a better editor. While I'm heartbroken that

my time with my amazing classmates was cut short, I'm confident that it won't be the end for us. Xavier has a funny way of connecting people; for such a small university, we sure do have a lot of oomph.

I have no idea what's next for me, a lot of us don't. But what I do know is that I'm prepared for whatever is thrown my way.

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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.

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*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.

Xavier, my home far away from home

Some four and a half years ago I made a life-altering decision, the good kind. For the first time in 18 years, I planned on living somewhere far from home.

Cincinnati was uncharted territory for me — I had never visited the Queen City before and it is a 10 hour car ride from my humble New York suburban abode back in New Jersey. It was a trek I hoped to be fruitful, one that would grant me with brand new experiences and opportunities.

And while many of the events I have looked forward to for years have come to an unexpected conclusion, the overall mission still has not diminished. I always planned on making these four years worth it, and they have been.

The experiences I have gained, both positive and

negative, are ones that I will never forget. In this sense, Xavier has better prepared me for life after school. In many ways, Xavier has evolved into my home away from home and I have a strong desire to make Cincinnati my permanent home.

I never imagined things would be this way — me, sitting here at my off-campus house as a second semester senior under these circumstances. Honestly, it all feels surreal, but in these hard times, I can't help but think about how much Xavier has meant to me

and has done for me.

Perhaps one of the biggest motivational forces in me coming to Xavier was for the Jesuit education. Small class sizes, an individual approach and a liberal arts education certainly intrigued me.

My father went to a Jesuit high school and college and always talked to me about how it has shaped him as a person. I was going to attend the same Jesuit college preparatory school, but instead attended my local public high school.

Not wanting to pass up on

my last opportunity to see what it was all about, I applied to Xavier. While I originally dismissed many of these notions in the past, it's finally starting to click exactly what he was trying to instill in me.

As a result of my profound experiences in the classroom, I can take with me values that will last a lifetime. Xavier has taught me how to think deeper, look at situations from multiple angles and perspectives and how to respect the opinions and thoughts of others.

Better yet, I've had the pleasure of meeting like-minded professors and students who will impact me greatly as my post-college career is approaching its beginning.

In the end, maybe I won't be able to hang out with all of my friends for the back half

of my final semester here, nor will I ever sit for an in-person class ever again, but that still doesn't overshadow the personal growth I have achieved in my time here.

And for that, I can thank Xavier.



Luke Feliciano is a senior sports management and digital media double major. He is the Sports News Editor for the Newswire from Rutherford, NJ. He has been a part of Newswire for four years.

Xavier has taught me how to think deeper, look at situations from multiple angles and perspectives and how to respect the opinions and thoughts of others.

This was not a part of my plan, thankfully

I had a plan.

I was going to visit Rome for the first time in nearly 10 years. I was going to have an easier school workload this semester and take classes that I was genuinely interested in. I was going to find a job in a field that I have been obsessed with my entire life. I was going to enjoy my last few months with the community that I love before marching into the unknown that is the future.

I even had an idea of what I was going to write for my



Jack Dunn is a senior sports management major. He is a Campus News Editor for the Newswire from Wilmette, Ill. He has been a part of Newswire for four years.

senior op-ed. But I guess that even the simplest of plans will have to change.

In a lot of ways, the way things feel to me now is very similar as to how I felt the night before my first day of Manresa.

I had a plan then too. I had just finished working the summer in a leadership position at my favorite place in the world, Camp MaKaJaWan. I was going to use the skills I had learned living away from my family and apply them to the new adventure that was freshman year.

Halfway through the journey between Chicago and Cincinnati, my family and I got rear-ended on the highway. Thankfully nobody was hurt, but it left me shaken and in a state of deep thought. I had almost my entire life in that car, from almost all of my possessions to the people I love the most. And I had almost lost all of it.

I'm having some of the same thoughts these days as I did on that warm summer night. Disbelief. Nerves. Un-

certainty.

Despite things not going to plan, I can now look back with certainty and know that these past few years at Xavier have been the best of my life. I've made new friendships that I know will last a lifetime. I got to know my professors on a personal level, who helped me find a passion and career path that was best for me. I've had unique experiences that I know I wouldn't have had anywhere else. I've discovered new interests that I might not have taken up otherwise if I hadn't come here. Hell, I've even lived one of my earliest childhood dreams: sitting behind home plate of a Cubs World Series game and eventually watching them win!

All these experiences and joys came after that night of

total uncertainty. Now, I'm feeling a similar level of uncertainty as we go forward into the future.

But for some reason this feeling of uncertainty doesn't scare me as much now as it did back then. I now know that even in the face of that feeling of uncertainty there is hope and there are good things to come.

That while things may be scary and bleak now, things can get better. I know that I will be able to enjoy life with the people I love while doing what I love.

So I want to take time to thank those in the Xavier community who helped me realize that while the road ahead is unknown it will still be possible for me to enjoy the journey.

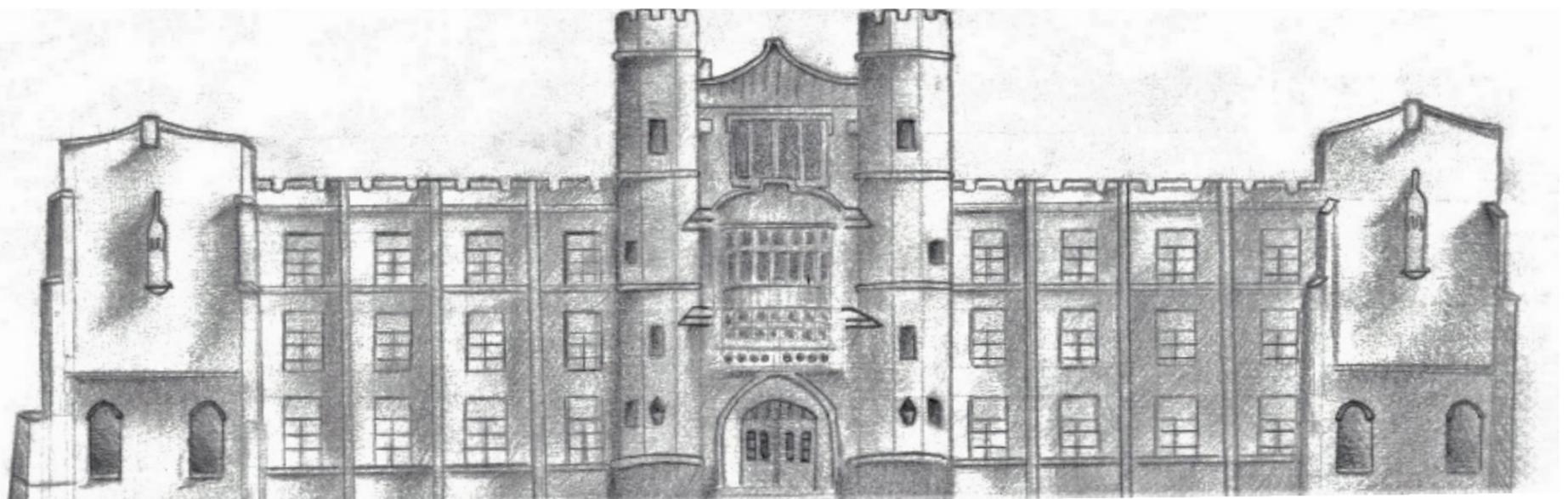
Thank you sport studies

professors, who helped me go from "exploratory" to a major that I am passionate about. Thank you Club Water Polo, who helped me continue a sport that I love and make new lifelong friendships all four years.

And thank you Newswire. Thank you for more than just helping me become a better writer in all sorts of topics. Thank you John, for encouraging me to take that next step from staff writer to page editor and getting me to write outside of the sports page.

Last but certainly not least, thank you editorial staff. Tuesday nights became something I looked forward to every week. While things may not have always gone according to plan, the friendships we forged creating this paper every week are some of my favorite memories. Those nights will be what I miss most about Xavier and my biggest regret is that they were cut short.

I'm glad things didn't go according to plan.



Analysis: Pro sports teams reel from Coronavirus

BY WILL PEMBROKE
Staff Writer

As we head toward the end of March in the early stages of 2020, there are no sports. I don't know if you have heard by now, but there is this thing called COVID-19 affecting the sports world as we speak.

Right now, in American sports, we should be seeing the NBA barrel ahead toward playoff season. We should see MLB teams gearing up to begin the slow 162-game march of the regular season. There should be pro days happening for top college football players looking to make the leap to the NFL.

Instead, we have a few WWE wrestling matches going on in empty arenas and a whole lot more NFL free agency coverage than what is typical for late March.

What happens next?

Well for the NBA, trying to figure out what to do with the remainder of the season is the top priority. Some reports have disclosed that the league is targeting a June return date. Obviously this is a fluid situation, and much of the decision making to come depends solely on how fast we can "flatten the curve" of the virus.

A positive side effect of the work stoppage is the creativity displayed in terms of what the NBA could do to properly end the 2019-2020 season.

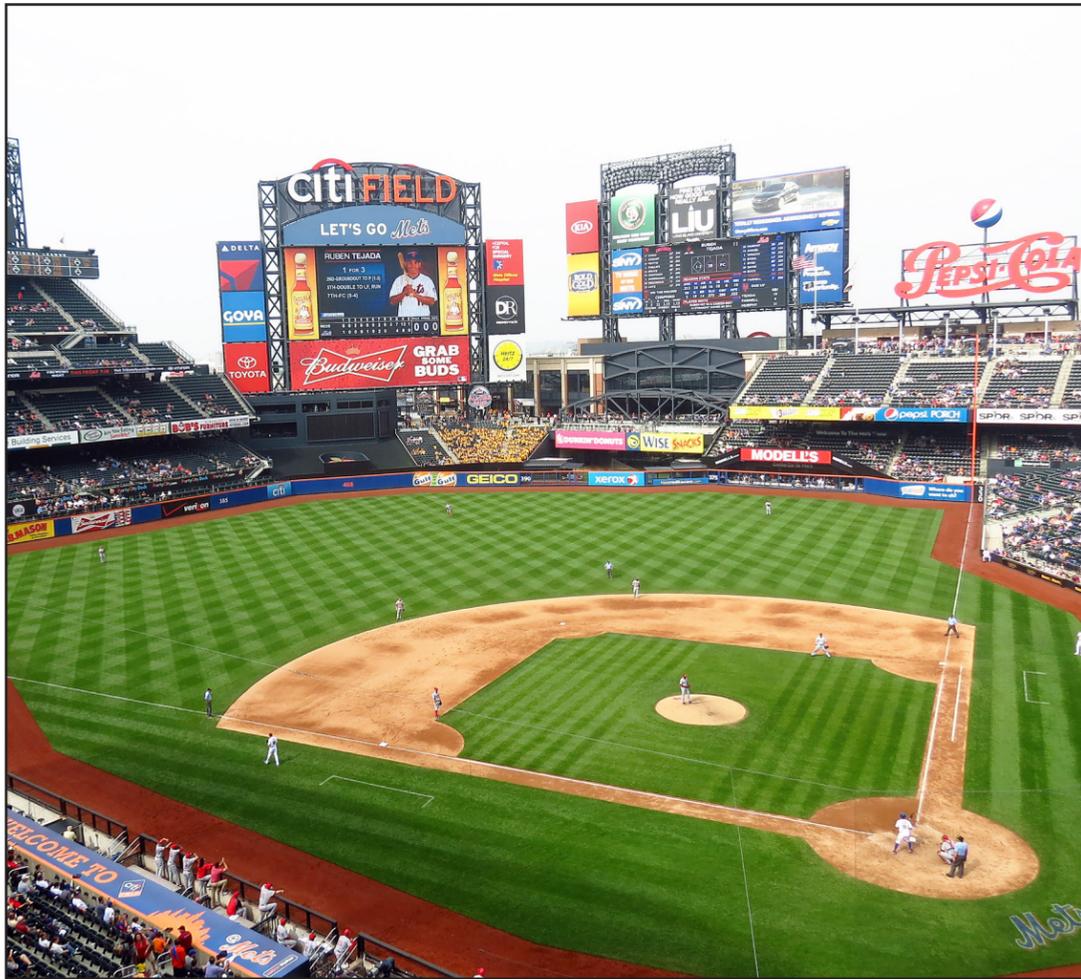


Photo courtesy of Wiki Commons

Professional sports across the country have been suspended as a result of the spread of COVID-19. While some leagues have had talks about how their respective seasons will proceed, others are still making that determination.

Is a play-in tournament like some have suggested a good choice? Moreover, should the league jump straight to the playoffs? Should we even have any playoffs?

All of the questions are valid, but one that is not being talked about enough is how all of this is going to affect

player safety. How can fans expect players to go straight from the couch to playing NBA games in a matter of days? The speed at which games are played combined with the level of athleticism which is required to have a chance to win is likely immeasurable.

Players will almost certainly be out of shape. Even those who do everything they can to maintain themselves physically will not be ready right away to compete in NBA games. All of these concerns are valid and will play a role in deciding how the rest of the NBA season is to be played.

NFL free agency period supplies a shocking twist

BY HUNTER ELLIS
Staff Writer

Void of any other sports news, the 2020 NFL free agency period — which has seen many stars depart from their longtime teams — has not disappointed in providing drama for clamoring fans.

When the 2020 NFL season begins, longtime franchise faces of teams across the league will suit up in different uniforms.

The most notable NFL stars who decided to sign contracts to play elsewhere include six-time Super Bowl champion Tom Brady, who will play for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers after 20 seasons with the New England Patriots.

Other key departures include eight-time Pro Bowler Phillip Rivers heading to the Colts after 15 seasons with the Chargers and DeAndre Hopkins being traded to the Arizona Cardinals after seven seasons with the Houston Texans.

These high-profile moves have been widely debated and surrounded with drama — especially Brady's move to the Buccaneers when it was revealed that he took a slight pay cut from what the Patriots offered him to change teams.



Photo courtesy of Wiki Commons

Tom Brady ended his 20-year tenure with the New England Patriots, signing a two-year, \$50 million guaranteed contract with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Both Brady's and Hopkins' situations, rumors surfaced that there were rifts between the players and their coaches that led to the departures.

While these moves grabbed the spotlight, some teams have made big moves that have gone slightly under the radar.

The hometown Cincinnati Bengals, not traditionally big free-agent spenders, signed two players: defensive lineman D.J. Reader and cornerback Trae Waynes.

Both should improve a de-

fense that was not so good in 2019, but they paid around \$95 million for both. The Bengals likely overpaid for the players but their production in 2020 could support the investment.

These moves will likely be seen as positives by most Bengals fans as it shows for the first time in roughly five years that they are willing to spend to bring in players.

The Browns made some big talent additions to their roster. They brought in Jack Conklin, a first-team all-pro

tackle and key cog in the Titans' dominant running game last year. They also brought in a top tight end in Austin Hooper.

There is no doubt the Browns have an abundance of talent on their roster. It's simply a matter of when that talent will come together to produce results on the field.

The Dallas Cowboys managed to keep the core of their team intact, re-signing wide receiver Amari Cooper and franchise tagging quarterback Dak Prescott, whom they will continue contract negotiations with.

The Carolina Panthers successfully began their reboot of the roster under new head coach Matt Rhule as they signed reliable veteran quarterback Teddy Bridgewater to a three-year deal to steal him away from their division rival Saints.

This move came only a week prior to the team releasing former league MVP Cam Newton on Tuesday.

The Panthers also signed arguably the top quarterback from the XFL, P.J. Walker, to a deal to round out their new quarterback room.

Yet, on the other hand, some teams made head-scratching moves.

In a shocking move, Todd

For the MLB, there are similar health concerns. Spring Training has been shut down leaguewide for some time now. Without the usual progression of getting ready to play through training camp, the injury risk for players, especially pitchers, will go up significantly.

The way in which the league handles how fast the season will start once state and local governments have given the all clear will be interesting.

Another thing to note is that having the virus strike across the country put an end to the media coverage on the MLB cheating scandals which were a hot topic this off-season.

How will fans of the game react to a team like the Houston Astros, the biggest cheaters in baseball as of this off-season, once people have their minds off of the virus? Only time will tell.

I would like to give a shout out to all of the leagues, teams, players and staff whose work to make this crisis a little easier on everybody has not gone unnoticed.

I speak for a large majority of Americans by saying that I want my sports back. I miss the daily routine of opening my phone to a barrage of reports, stats, highlights and other fun tidbits about the various awesome leagues I am privileged to follow.

Gurley was cut by the Los Angeles Rams, and was swiftly picked up by the Atlanta Falcons.

Gurley was the NFL Offensive Player of the Year in 2017 and top players like Gurley do not often get released.

After a disappointing season, the Rams had to deal with their poorly managed cap situation and likely had to choose to release one of their four highly paid stars, either Gurley, quarterback Jared Goff, wide receiver Brandin Cooks or defensive tackle Aaron Donald.

Both the Miami Dolphins and Detroit Lions, coached by former New England assistants, continued the trend of signing ex-Patriots players to their roster for high-dollars, yet we haven't seen much results by any team to prove that this is an effective team-building strategy.

Time will tell if the big money signings of Kyle Van Noy, Jamie Collins, Danny Shelton, Ted Karras and company will pay off on the field for these teams.

While most of the big acquisitions have passed for most teams, the free agency window for teams remains open. The offseason has not disappointed fans so far and there is still more to come.

MLB video game brings the heat



Photo courtesy of Gamingbolt.com

The latest installment of the "MLB: The Show" franchise impresses fans with its 'unmatched graphics,' and outstanding mimicry of a real baseball-playing experience. The game's new features heighten the sense of competition and thrill.

BY LUKE FELICIANO

Sports Editor

Baseball is suspended — for now. But the good news is you can play as your favorite teams and players with the latest installment of the "MLB: The Show" franchise.

This game will be sure to reinvigorate the spirit of America's pastime with some upgraded features. Fans of the game might notice the updated cracking of the bat sound right away, and it's one that changes based on the type of contact made during a game. If you wallop a 400-footer, you will hear the hard maple smacking the ball with authority. On the

other hand, if you hit a dribbler to the pitcher, you'll only hear a feeble dink of the bat.

Arguably the three best game modes are Franchise, Road to the Show and my newfound favorite, Diamond Dynasty.

The franchise mode remained relatively the same as previous years. However, the biggest adjustment this year is the option to relocate a team. The MLB itself is considering an expansion but with this capability, players can completely rebrand a team from scratch with top to bottom changes including logos, colors and uniforms.

Road to the Show is es-

entially a mode that allows a user to create a player and take them through the ranks of a professional baseball career beginning in the minor leagues.

The coolest element of the new game is the chance to build a rapport with teammates. For example, if your player is a shortstop and turns a bunch of double plays, you will increase your on-field chemistry with the second baseman.

This is just a small but mighty change that really makes the experience of playing this game mode much more organic, even though it's part of a video game.

Now to the game mode I'm hooked on. Admittedly, I had not really explored much of this game mode in the past because I didn't feel I could ever build a strong Diamond Dynasty team — one that allows you to create a squad from cards that are either pulled from packs, bought from the marketplace or earned through rewards.

It's a massive time investment to curate a competitive team, but the long hours pay off with a team to be reckoned with. The options for this mode are seemingly endless, and there will only be more opportunities with updates as the game is still in its nascent stages.

One awesome new feature of this mode is Showdown, which can net you big rewards should you complete the challenges. It's definitely a challenge but it's also fun because you draft a new team based on pre-determined cards and whether or not you are successful at each stage before the final showdown.

I really only see a few bad parts about this game. My main complaint is the reaction times seem a bit delayed and sluggish compared to what you would see in a typical baseball game.

For instance, if you preload

a throw from the outfield, the controlled player doesn't always zip it in like they should. Instead, they casually stroll over and proceed to chuck the ball back in like they are tossing a newspaper over their head. Another minor reaction time problem appears to happen when controlling a runner on the base paths.

While there are also some minor glitches that can easily be patched with updates, the unrealistic reaction times is really my only knock on an otherwise refreshing game.

Taking into consideration all of these factors, I am cognizant of the fact that this is, after all, a video game. The aim is to mimic and emulate a real-life game, but no game is perfect in doing so. At the end of the day, though, "MLB: The Show 20" will provide a user with an incredible experience in what I believe to be the best sports video game series.

The graphics are unmatched, the game modes remain abundant and the customizable options could even seem superfluous to those who have never played.

Total score:



Lil Uzi Vert's *Eternal Atake* takes world by storm

BY GUS NATIONS IV

Staff Writer

Symere Woods, professionally known as Lil Uzi Vert, has finally released his long awaited album *Eternal Atake*. The album, as advertised, is out of this world. It seems as though Uzi has put the last two and a half years to good use and spent the time devising a project to blow the doors off the worldwide music community.

As a longtime fan of Uzi, the album does not disappoint. The artist's ability to combine infectious melodies with catchy lyrics makes for a project that is entertaining from start to finish. *Eternal Atake*, from the starting gun, is an album chock-full of head-bangers. As has been his schtick for his entire career, Uzi brands himself as a rockstar, and if his freshman album, *LUV is Rage 2*, did not solidify that statement, *Eternal Atake* surely does.

I listened to the album for the first time in my dorm immediately after I learned of its surprise drop and I found myself smiling the entire time. Everything about it is just so infectious, you can't help but be happy for the man as he brags about "the famous life," even if you yourself cannot



Photo courtesy of Stereogum.com

Lil Uzi Vert's newly released and long awaited album *Eternal Atake* lives up to the hopes and wishes of his fans. The album's many infectious melodies, catchy lyrics and buoyant music display remarkable consistency and, for many fans, provides a source of joy amid the many calamities that have plagued the year.

relate.

While one would think that the formula of fast cars, beautiful women and expensive watches would have gotten old by now, Uzi manages to find ways to take that formula and make it so much better. I just can't get tired of his new Richard Mille watch or his five million dollar Bugatti.

Lil Uzi Vert has defined trap music over the last five years, and I am here for it. Notable songs include the opening track, "Baby Pluto," which serves as a taste for the vibe of the rest of the album. Addi-

tionally, "Silly Watch" provides an infectious bop that, if performed by any other artist, would make absolutely no sense, but unexplainably, Uzi pulls off. Finally, my personal favorite: "Prices."

"Prices" features a sample from one of my favorite songs from another artist, Travis Scott. Uzi uses a sample from the song "Way Back" and just makes it so much better.

What's even better is that Uzi just dropped the deluxe version of the album including 14 (yes, 14!) additional songs and serving as a fol-

low-up to 2016's Lil Uzi Vert vs. The World!

2020 might be off to a rough start, but it seems as if Uzi is doing his best to combat all the upset the world is facing right now.

Eternal Atake (Deluxe) - *LUV vs. The World 2* is just as fantastic as its normal version and features unreleased leaked songs that fans have been clamoring over for years. Chief among these songs is "Myron," a song leaked in 2018 that was finally mastered and included on the album. The legendary

Chief Keef appears on "Bean (Kobe)" and Future also makes an appearance on "Wassup."

I am shocked by the way this has developed and strongly encourage everyone who likes music in any capacity to give this album a listen. Very proudly, I give both parts of this album my second 5/5 ever. Fantastic work, Symere Woods.

Total score:



COVID-19 catastrophe kills cinema

BY BEN THOMSON
Staff Writer

Goodbye movie theaters, hello streaming!

Our way of life has been upended in ways nobody could have seen coming. Students all across the country have been forced to go online for the remainder of the semester. Social distancing has become the new norm. In fact, some states have opted to make self-quarantine a legal requirement.

All this to fight off COVID-19. But it's the little things in life that will be missed the most. Mainly, trips to the movie theater.

It started with James Bond. On March 4, parent company Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM) announced that their April 10 release, *No Time to Die*, would instead be pushed back seven months to Nov. 2020. This is because, at the time, the COVID-19 panic was contained to only China and parts of Europe, two of MGM's biggest market share. However, this would not be the end of the cancellations or delays.

During the next week, more and more of the summer's big releases began pushing back release dates

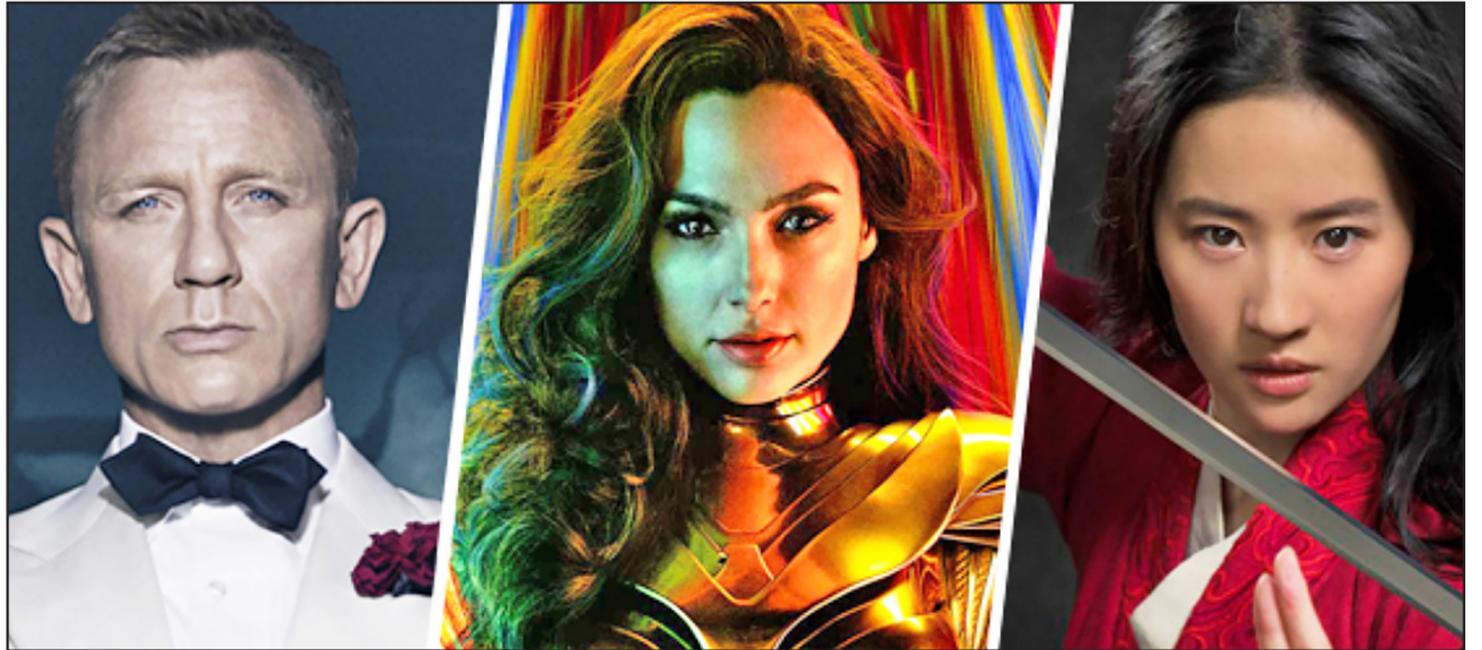


Photo courtesy of Schoolmedia.co.za

Disney's live action version of the newest James Bond thriller *No Time to Die*, *Wonder Woman 1984* and *Mulan*, as well as *A Quiet Place Part II* were among the films whose release dates were pushed back or postponed indefinitely. Streaming services are poised to benefit from coronavirus precautions, however.

and cancelling all together. The ninth film in the *Fast and the Furious* franchise was pushed back an entire year, despite its star claiming the release would not be perturbed by the COVID-19 scare. *A Quiet Place Part II*'s release was postponed indefinitely. Even Disney's big tent-poles *Black Widow* and *Mulan* have been put on indefinite hold until the global pandemic is solved.

Some studios are trying to recover from their losses.

Films still in theaters such as *The Invisible Man*, *Trolls World Tour* and *The Hunt* are now being sold digitally for a flat fee of \$19.99. Pixar's *Onward* is also doing this, and even dropping on Disney+ at the beginning of April.

This begs an interesting question, however. Could this be the future of the movie-going experience? For as long as Hollywood has been around, there's always been something trying to kill it. First it was television. Then

it was internet piracy. More recently, it was streaming, a battle that hasn't quite ended yet.

There have been more and more accommodations made by Hollywood to reconcile with streaming services, such as negotiations with theaters for longer syndication to strong-arming streaming services into doing theatrical releases. However, it's interesting to note that the studio least affected by the COVID-19 crisis is Netflix.

It's clear the world won't be the same after this crisis is over. And cinema may very well be a casualty of that change, which would be a shame.

There's nothing I love more than strapping myself in for two hours and experiencing a movie distraction-free, as the filmmaker intended for you to see it. But I'm adaptable. It's just a shame future generations may only experience movies through Netflix or Disney+.

Netflix gem *I Am Not Okay With This* charms audiences

BY HEATHER GAST
Managing Editor

When I started Netflix's *I Am Not Okay With This* on a whim, I thought I'd be watching some delightfully dysfunctional teens muddle through school. So, when Syd Novak started moving stuff with her brain, I was as surprised as she was.

This first season is slow going on the supernatural storyline and falls into a number of Netflix-ian pitfalls, but the lovable characters and small town setting wrap you up in Syd's world and make these seven episodes binge-worthy.

The series opens on a podunk Pennsylvania town and shadows Novak a year after her father's suicide. Novak juggles grieving with a tense family life, getting through school and slowly noticing her obvious infatuation with her best friend, Dina. When Syd becomes overwhelmed by emotions, paranormal powers, like super strength or causing someone's nose to bleed, pop up.

The overarching plot of Syd coming to realize her powers feels like the first half hour of a superhero origin movie stretched out over an entire season and it ends at a major cliffhanger. The cliffhanger didn't leave me too



Photo courtesy of Popsugar.com

Netflix original series *I Am Not Okay With This* is a charming coming-of-age story as Syd, the main character, navigates the aftermath of her father's suicide while discovering her superpowers and her burgeoning LGBT+ identity.

happy, seeing as I binged the season the day it premiered, but the teenage drama and development of Syd's psyche that are central to her powers kept me plenty entertained.

While the show does a good job of developing Syd and her emotional turmoil, most of the characters feel half-baked. However, the crowd favorite of this series by far is a funky little drug dealer named Stan with a hopeless crush on Syd.

I'll have to credit a share of his charm to his wacky wardrobe, but Stan's character has the friendly and goofy vibe I wish every dude who I did not share feelings for had. It would be almost painful to have a guy stopping you on your walk to school to offer you a ride normally, but when Stan insists on taking thirty seconds to roll his window down inch by inch with a cheesy smile, he's at least weird enough to keep

around. And I really wasn't kidding about wardrobe. The dude wore a polyester robin's egg blue suit with a graphic tee underneath and I was jade green with envy. *Queer Eye* was quaking.

I have found in several Netflix series that I get distractingly mixed signals on what time period they're supposed to take place in and *I Am Not Okay With This* falls into this same trap. An epi-

sode will start with excessive wood paneling, weird insults like "go eat a tampon," yellow hues and a mom in a diner uniform asking where her stockings are that convince me it's the 1980s and then I get whiplash when some kid gets surprised by a VHS collection. It's confusing enough that every Netflix show features at least five '80s songs and I'm just trying to figure out how taboo it is for Syd to be gay.

With that said, one thing I really respect this series for is casting teenage actors to play teenage roles. Having age appropriate actors felt authentic, and both my 15 and 20-year-old self felt seen when characters compared bacne.

A final word of warning, one of the final scenes is gory, definitely earning the series a TV-MA rating several times over. But overall, I'd recommend this series to anyone who digs coming-of-age storylines involving grief, LGBT+ identity and a dash of superpower zest.

I'll miss Syd, Stan and friends for now; here's hoping that Netflix will greenlight a second season soon.

Total score:
★★★★☆



How the stars want you to spend your time in Quarantine



Aries: Consume plenty of apocalypse fiction! You need to decide fast what role you will play when the zombies start coming. Are you more an obligatory leader type or are you the cool fan favorite who lives at the edge of the camp and doesn't talk much?



Taurus: Make a "Which member of the Donkey Kong family are you?" quiz. A lot of people think they're Funky Kong but deep down they're total Dixies.



Gemini: Remain socially distant! Don't hang out in large groups! Stay home most of the time! Don't pick up the phone when your friends call! Alienate yourself from your own family and loved ones!



Cancer: Make your own video conference service. Whatever you make will probably be better than Zoom.



Leo: Pet your dog! Look into his happy face and tell him what a good boy he is! He doesn't know there's an international pandemic going on right now that could severely change his life. Oh, to be so naive!



Virgo: Sing songs to your neighbors! In Italy, they are taking to their balconies to sing Italian classics and it's greatly increasing morale. We don't really have balconies in America, so just stick your head out your window and sing "All Star."



Libra: Find a way to separate your workspace from your relaxation space. It's difficult to write horoscopes from the same desk where you post pictures and participate in discussions on the vacuum repair forum!



Scorpio: You might wanna start working out before your freshman 15 turns more into the quarantine quadrillion, know what I'm saying?



Sagittarius: Play board games with your family, not only to stay sane, but also as apocalypse practice! Play Monopoly to practice your bartering skills and to practice not murdering your siblings even if you really want to.



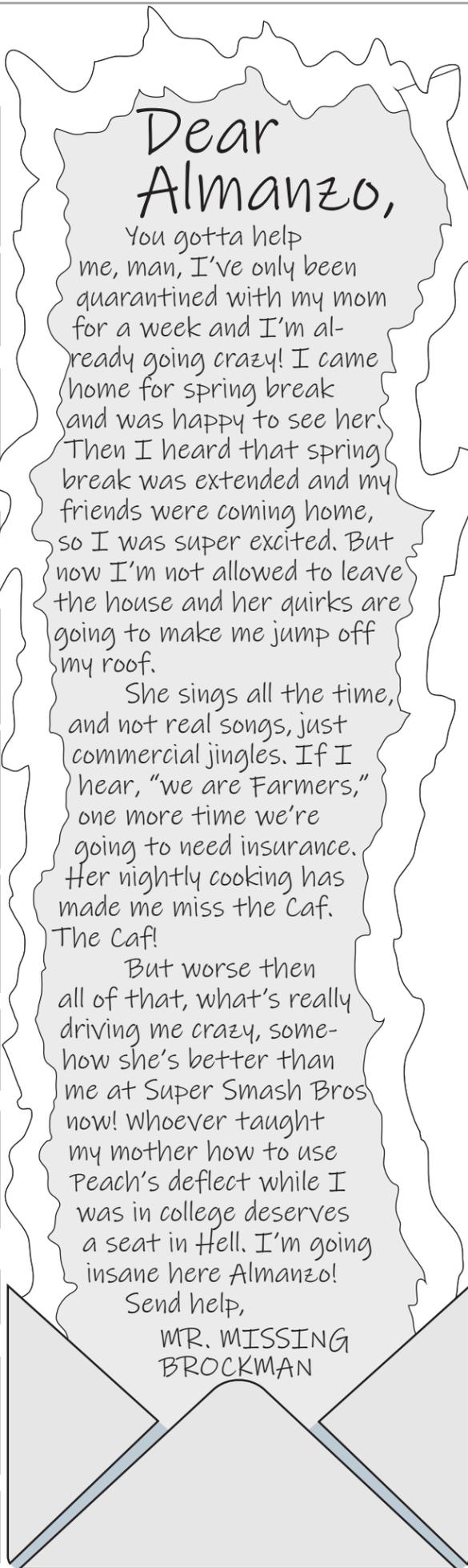
Capricorn: Make a sweet fort out of the insane quantity of toilet paper your dad stocked up on.



Aquarius: Become a gamer! While they may be the most oppressed group in our current society, when the Earth becomes uninhabitable and we transfer all human consciousness to the internet they will be the ones calling us losers.



Pisces: Forge fake identities to add as names on the "ban Father Graham from retiring" petition.



Hey Mr. Missing Brockman!
I'm Almanzo's mom! I know you were writing to him, but I was going through his mail and thought who better to answer your mother inquiry than a mother!?

It sounds like your mother is doing her best to enjoy her time with you! I know I've been loving every nightly game of *Scrabble* with my little Manzo.

Us mothers miss you college kiddos more than you could know while you're gone. And when you're back for summer break, you all spend your time hanging out with friends. After college, who knows where you'll move to and whether or not we'll ever get a chance to watch the new episode of *This Is Us* together again.

Also, don't blame your mother for commercial jingles being so catchy. It's not her fault, complain to J.K. Simmons! And I know you're disappointed your food is no longer served to you by the cute Caf worker with the cleft chin, but your mother is making each meal special for you with love.

I don't know what *Super Smash Boys* is, but it sounds like your mom has taken the time to learn your Gameboy games so you both can do activities you enjoy together. So maybe your mom drives you a little "crazy" now, but you'll look back on these times fondly one day. Let me leave you with a quote from my idol:

"Someday soon, you'll have families of your own. And if you're lucky, you'll remember the little moments," -Tony Soprano.

Give your mother a hug,
Almanzo, M.D.*
*'s mom

Fictionary

Your weekly well of wacky words™

BY TESS BREWER
Staff Writer

Capteepealism (cap-tee-pee-AH-lih-sm): Economic growth exclusively in the toilet paper industries

Discoroncertainment (dis-corr-ohn-SERT-ment): Confusion and bewilderment surrounding the current pandemic stricken society

Puryell (pure-YELL): A war cry, unscientifically proven to defeat 99.9% of germs

Sansitizer (SANS-eh-tie-zer): A dangerous enterprise; involves entering society without first disinfecting the self

Quarantidy (quar-IN-ti-dee): Unfamiliar urge to clean your living space; only comes after realizing you may be stuck in said space for a while

Lysolid (LIE-sol-id): A socially distanced favor "Hey man, do me a lysolid, and keep that six feet of distance."

- Down
1. The original Words with Friends
 3. The most musical of the Kong Family
- Across
1. J. Jonah Jameson
 2. Screaming "take THAT bacteritches!" as you wash your hands
 4. I bet the fire alarm hasn't gone off in awhile
 5. Letting your friend copy your e-notes could be considered an example of a _____

