



## XU mandates vaccines for spring

*As COVID-19 cases spike, Task Force discusses further restrictions*

BY ALEX BUDZYNSKI AND HUNTER ELLIS

*Editor-in-Chief and Multimedia Managing Editor*

Xavier is now requiring all students to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to the Spring semester as announced in yesterday's campus-wide message from Dr. Colleen Hanycz, president. This update comes as Xavier is experiencing a surge in positive cases, consistent with national trends.

According to the email message, this protocol follows full Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of a COVID-19 vaccine. With this announcement, Xavier becomes the first institution in the Greater Cincinnati region to mandate the COVID-19 vaccine. This requirement does not apply to university employees.

Chair of the COVID-19 Task Force Jeff Coleman clarified how the vaccine mandate will be enforced.

"In order to register for spring classes on Oct. 18, students have to show proof of their first shot. Then, By Jan. 3, students have to show proof that they've been fully vaccinated, otherwise they will be withdrawn from their classes," Coleman said.

Students expressed mixed reactions about the vaccine requirement. Junior exercise science major Iain Kirby was pleased to receive the announcement.

"As someone who is going to be a future healthcare provider, it's hard for me to understand other people who don't want to get the vaccine. However, for the greater good of the Xavier community, I



Newswire photo by Desmond Fischer

think it's important that they are required for the spring."

In contrast, senior biomedical science major Jayla Copland did not agree with the decision.

"I don't think the vaccine is right, because it is your body and your choice," she said.

According to Coleman, students with medical and religious stipulations will be exempt from the mandate.

This announcement comes after a week and a half of classes and at a time when Xavier is seeing a spike in positive tests, despite 77% of students being fully vaccinated.

According to the most recent data shared on the COVID-19 Dashboard, Xavier is experiencing one of the highest surges in cases since the start of the pandemic, with 86 active, positive cases as of this Tuesday.

The campus message also stated that cases are being reported in vaccinated and unvaccinated students.

"We're seeing more breakthrough cases than we had anticipated... in our planning for this semester we assumed if 80% of students were vaccinated, they would not con-

tract the virus," Coleman said.

Coleman noted that although there are more breakthrough cases than expected, it is still imperative that students receive a vaccine.

"Most of the students that are vaccinated and are getting the virus are experiencing mild to no symptoms... The vaccine never said that you wouldn't get sick. What it said was you wouldn't get as sick or end up in the hospital," Coleman remarked.

According to the Task Force, the vaccine requirement has nothing to do with the spike in cases.

"That decision had been made a while back, but we were waiting for FDA approval to make an official announcement on it," Coleman clarified.

However, students can expect more changes in the coming days in response to the rise in positive cases.

"We're looking at strengthening and expanding the mask mandate to more indoor spaces. (We're encouraging) social distancing wherever you can. Try to keep group gatherings to a reasonable number. Be aware, especially with the La-

bor Day weekend coming up," Coleman stated.

Additionally, the university will likely refine its Zoom policy, reintroducing hybrid and online options.

"I received a proposal this evening for how we're going to pivot to potentially offering a Zoom option as we did last semester, but only for students that are in quarantine or isolation due to COVID... that's going to be the number one item on the Task Force's agenda (this) morning when we meet."

Coleman noted that students can expect to hear about these changes by the end of this week via the Provost's office.

Dean of Students Jean Griffin emphasized the need for students to change their actions in order to prevent further restrictions from the university.

"I really hope we can make the changes we need to make voluntarily... if it doesn't work, I think we have... to look at what additional expectations we might have (to) put into place," she said.

"The variant is starting to be pretty prevalent in our community... (it) has created a concerning reality. It is concerning to see the cases rise as quickly as they have," Griffin continued.

Coleman noted that a number of positive cases have been traced to large off-campus gatherings, which could be resulting in the spike.

"As we were doing our contact tracing, a majority (of positive cases) have been traced to three or four large social events — house parties. There was also an event at Stones Lanes recently that we've traced a number of cas-

es to," he said.

In general, students were not surprised by the recent surge.

"I wish it wasn't that way, but we're now in this situation where off campus students are having a COVID-19 spike and we need to be aware of our actions," Kirby said.

"We're seeing no indication of spread in classrooms on campus or in other facilities on campus so that's really good news," Coleman elaborated.

Following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Tri-Health officials, vaccinated individuals will only be required to quarantine for 10 days if they are symptomatic or until they receive a negative test result. Inoculated, asymptomatic students are not required to quarantine, even if they are a close contact.

This year, Manor House has returned to regular residential housing, while the University Apartments remain quarantine housing. However, the majority of cases in this surge are being identified in off-campus students.

In her message, Hanycz emphasized the power of vaccinations, identifying them as critical tools in battling the pandemic that is not over.

"(It) is especially critical as we are now experiencing, nationally, significant numbers of 'breakthrough' infections among those who have been fully vaccinated... we remain convinced that we will support those needs best by (requiring vaccines). This community has done extremely well to support our students and one another through this global pandemic. This is but another chapter in that book."

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# CFJ adds new Protestant chaplain

*Rev. Justin West joins the CFJ, bringing knowledge and a positive outlook*

BY TESS BREWER  
Staff Writer

Reverend Justin West has joined the Center for Faith and Justice (CFJ) as the new Protestant chaplain, as well as the new Faith and Race Program Director.

He has embraced involvement on campus and is eager to start conversations with students about “faith, race, life — and the intersection of all three.”

Before coming to Xavier, West was involved in the Chicago area as a youth minister in a local church and also directed nonprofit youth programs. While he has had experience working as a student leader in the past, working with students at a college campus is a new environment in which he is eager to take part.

“This is new ground. This is new territory... I feel passionate about education and learning, and I see that as a component to this position,” West said.

He was drawn to Xavier for the open position not only for the pastoral role, also for the opportunity to bridge two aspects of his service: race and faith.

He described himself as “passionate” about these is-



Photo courtesy of xavier.edu

**Xavier's Center for Faith and Justice added Rev. Justin West as the Protestant chaplain over the summer. Rev. West will also assist the Dorothy Day Center for Faith and Justice as the Faith & Race Program Director.**

sues, adding that he looks forward to “being able to support the African American student population and journey with them.” He is also excited by the initiatives and programs offered in the CFJ.

“The values that the (CFJ) is committed to holding and the work that they are committed to doing was... even more exciting,” West said.

In his short time on campus, he has felt welcomed by both staff and students.

In talking with members of the Xavier community, West says he has gained a better idea of the need for his position; the change in Xavier's leadership, the pandemic

and a vast array of societal divisions present unique challenges.

“There are challenges, but there are also opportunities to imagine: to imagine new programming, to imagine new work with students and with co-workers,” West said.

He said he can feel a great sense of potential present in the support that he has received, with “the ability to envision and not have to fit a specific mold.”

West currently leads Common Ground, a non-denominational protestant worship service offered every Sunday. He discussed some of his goals for this program and his

involvement in general.

“I want students to feel supported, cared for and to have a sense of freedom to explore the issues that concern them,” he added. “To feel like empowered faith leaders who can partner with each other to bring about a transformation at Xavier, in their lives and in the wider Cincinnati community.”

West takes pride in participating in these intense conversations with students. A highlight of his recent ministerial experiences included an opportunity to host students from the Fred Shuttlesworth Leadership Team, a group that facilitates faith and social

justice-based discussions and events for local students of color.

He was able to welcome those students into his home, which “was a dream I had; that I want to be able to not only offer support as a staff member but invite students into my life too.”

Outside of his work at Xavier, he is also a PhD student in African American Preaching and Sacred Rhetoric. He strives to teach in higher education, whether at Xavier or somewhere beyond.

As a new staff member, West believes his perspective allows him to relate to first-year students uniquely. He shared a senior student reflection he had heard at Common Ground that moved him.

“The wisdom that (the senior) shared to first-years... to keep an open mind, allowing yourself room to change and grow and evolve... I think that's important for students to know,” he said. “If students are searching for a community to do that, there are groups and staff members across campus that want to ensure that holistic wellbeing and to support that evolution.”

Rev. West will lead a non-denominational Common Ground service this Sunday at 8 p.m. in Clock Tower Lounge.

## HUB no longer requires masks when working out



Newswire photo by Desmond Fischer

**The HUB is no longer requiring students to wear a mask while working out. The decision was rolled out on Aug. 19 by Xavier's COVID-19 Task Force.**

BY IVY LEWIS  
Guest Writer

Xavier University's Health United Building (HUB) recently announced that students will not be required to wear a mask while exercising in the Recreation Center. This comes as a response to evolving guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on masking indoors.

The decision was guided by the COVID-19 Task Force and went into effect last Friday. The task force encourages students to visit the HUB during non-peak hours, remain socially distanced when

using the facilities and continue to wear a mask if they are not vaccinated.

Due to the high risk of transmission posed by the COVID-19 Delta variant, students and faculty will still be required to wear masks in all on-campus classrooms, lab spaces and offices.

Student employees at the HUB were somewhat conflicted but agreed that vaccinated people deserve to choose whether they wear a mask.

“Personally, as an employee, I can see both sides to the argument. At this point a lot of people are vaccinated, so I think they should have the choice whether or not they

want to wear a mask,” student worker Valerie Workman said.

“But, of course, no one has to disclose their vaccination status (at the HUB), so it's really up to them whether they choose to wear a mask or not,” Workman commented. “They know the risks at this point of not wearing a mask.”

“All workers at the HUB are required to wear a mask during their shift. That includes anyone who works at the front desk, all the administration, group fitness instructors (and) personal trainers,” Workman added.

Group fitness classes will limit the number of students per class, depending on the class's location. Currently, the Persist Studio will allow up to 20 students per class, the Transform Studio will allow 36 and the Balance Studio will allow 43.

Interested students are encouraged to pre-register for group fitness classes through EngageXU to ensure they have a spot. Pre-registration will be available 48 hours before each class, and walk-ins will be accepted only when the pre-registration spots have not been filled. Students participating in group fitness classes should continue to use caution and follow public health guidelines to maintain

the safety and wellness of themselves and others.

Despite the change from mandatory to optional masking at the HUB, students are strongly encouraged to follow COVID-19 guidelines when

working out. Proper protocol when exercising includes maintaining six feet of distance from others, sanitizing equipment following use and wearing a mask if not vaccinated.

August 23, 2021

### Student Government Association Meeting Recap

COURTESY OF CHLOE SALVESON

- There have been recent changes to Xavier's quarantine and isolation policies. Quarantine is not required for vaccinated, asymptomatic students and is two days shorter. Faculty have been advised to work with students who are in quarantine or isolation.
- Jean Griffin, dean of students, spoke with SGA regarding the surge in COVID-19 cases and a possible vaccine mandate, as the Pfizer vaccine was granted full Food and Drug Administration approval.
- The outdoor basketball court situation will be evaluated by a task force of student leaders, faculty and staff in coming weeks.
- A permanent pass/fail policy is under assessment.

# Bomb threat scare at U.S. Capitol

Roseberry spoke of "revolution" in a five hour standoff with Capitol police

BY TYLER CLIFTON  
Staff Writer

The U.S. Capitol came under threat on Aug. 19 when Floyd Ray Roseberry claimed to have a bomb in his truck when approached by a Capitol police officer that morning. Roseberry was charged with threatening to use a weapon of mass destruction last Friday.

Roseberry drove onto the sidewalk in front of the Library of Congress at approximately 9:15 a.m. Sydney Bobb, a student who was walking to a class at the United Methodist Building on Capitol Hill, saw Roseberry in his parked truck.

"I look up, and I see a guy throwing (\$1 bills) out of his truck," she explained. "I hear him say, like, he had a bomb on him."

A nearly five hour standoff ensued, during which Roseberry livestreamed on Facebook. While on the live-stream, Roseberry made several threats towards President Joe Biden and expressed his aim to start a revolution.

"The revolution is on. It's here. It's today. America needs a voice. I'll give it to them," Roseberry said.

He also claimed that there were four other bombs around D.C. and that there were other people involved.

Roseberry also claimed to have a keg of gunpowder as



Floyd Ray Roseberry drove to the Library of Congress and livestreamed his threats on Facebook. Claiming that there were four other bombs around D.C., Roseberry faces life in prison for his actions. His trial was postponed.

Photo courtesy of Flickr.com

well as more than two pounds of the explosive ammo practice material Tannerite inside of his truck.

U.S. Capitol Police stated that, though they did not find a bomb in his car, they did find bomb-making materials.

In a Friday hearing, U.S. Magistrate Judge Zia Faruqui charged Roseberry with attempting to use an explosive device and threatening to use a weapon of mass destruction.

The judge said that, if convicted of the weapon of mass

destruction charge, Roseberry could face life in prison. The explosive device charge would mean up to 10 years in prison.

In the videos uploaded to Facebook during the standoff — which have since been taken down by the platform — he expressed anti-government views, blamed Democrats for the fallout of Afghanistan and demanded to speak with Biden before he would consider standing down.

Capitol Police gradually made progress in the standoff negotiations. U.S. Capitol

Chief of Police Tom Manger noted that communication was first achieved through whiteboards.

Eventually, Roseberry left the truck and was taken into custody.

"He got out of the vehicle and surrendered, and the tactical units that were nearby surrendered without incident," Manger said.

After he surrendered, Capitol Police arrested and detained him without bail in a D.C. jail.

Among others, the Su-

preme Court, the Cannon House Building and the offices of the Republican National Committee were evacuated during the threat. Following Roseberry's arrest, buildings ended their evacuation protocols.

Both Congress and the Supreme Court are in recess, meaning neither building required an evacuation.

The FBI has already released an affidavit in conjunction with their investigation into the threats. In the affidavit, an unnamed relative of Roseberry's explained that Roseberry told him some details of his plans.

"(He) ordered a trench coat to protect him from Taser and pepper ball guns and he would just tip his cowboy hat at police," the relative said.

Roseberry had no history of criminal violence prior to his actions on Thursday, apart from traffic offenses and larceny charges years prior.

The sheriff described Roseberry as a "sleeper case," meaning that there were no overt signs that he would commit violent acts.

Roseberry's family told reporters that he has a history of mental health problems, which caused his trial to be postponed on Wednesday. He told the judge deciding his case that he was put on new medication. This led the judge to postpone his trial for one month, citing concerns about mental stability.

## The Lighter Side

Respecting women, sexy snakes, undies

- The Taliban has asked women to stay home because fighters have not yet been trained to respect women (Aug. 24).
- The nude infant pictured on Nirvana's hit album *Nevermind* is suing Kurt Cobain's estate, alleging that he was four months old at the time the photograph was taken and could not consent to his photo's usage (Aug. 24).
- Lil Nas X has been named "Chief Impact Officer" at Taco Bell (Aug. 24).
- The Attorney General of Texas, Ken Paxton, was investigated and cleared by his own office of wrongdoing in bribery allegations (Aug. 24).
- Lovin' it: two couples got married at a McDonalds drive-through in Cambridge, Canada (Aug. 24).
- In a win for creative students everywhere, schools in Seoul, Korea have removed restrictions on the color of students' underwear. Now, students can wear non-white undies without breaking the dress code (Aug. 24).
- A group of kids near Salem have led a movement to pardon a woman convicted of witchcraft during the 17th-century Salem trials (Aug. 24).
- Venomous sea snakes have attempted to have sex with divers. The snakes mistake divers for potential mates and rivals, alternating between attacks and attempted seduction (Aug. 25)

## Voting Restrictions Proposed

BY ETHAN NICHOLS  
Guest Writer

Ohio House Republicans proposed extensive voting restrictions last week, including enhanced photo identification requirements, stricter rules on absentee voting and bans on ballot drop boxes.

The voting rights bill House Bill (HB) 387, was introduced by Ohio Rep. Bill Dean (R-Xenia).

The bill would limit early voting to the 13 days before Election Day, except the Monday before Election Day. Previously, voters had a 28-day early voting period.

HB 387 would also ban the Secretary of State from mailing absentee ballot applications to voters.

Only people with with diagnosed physical disabilities that would prevent voting in-person, under the new bill's provisions, can vote in-person.

The new bill will only allow Ohioans to register to vote with a driver's license, passport or state ID. Previously, Ohioans could vote with military IDs, utility bills or bank statements in addition to state-issued photo IDs.



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

Ohio House Republicans put forward new voting restrictions in HB 387.

HB 387 follows another bill, HB 294, in adding stricter requirements to voting.

HB 294 was introduced to the Ohio House of Representatives on May 6 by Rep. Tom Brinkman R-Mount Lookout) and Rep. Sharon Ray (R-Wadsworth).

It seeks to limit drop boxes for mail-in voting to the 10 days before Election Day, remove early voting on the Monday before Election Day and require Ohioans to submit two forms of identification to request a mail-in ballot.

Rep. Brigid Kelly (D-Hyde Park) has been a vocal opponent of both bills, and characterized them as a "step in the wrong direction."

"Our democracy works

best when everyone can vote," Kelly said. "If we listen to our communities, they want to make voting more accessible."

Defending HB 387 as necessary to minimize voter fraud, Rep. Scott Wiggam (R-Wooster) expressed concerns with the security of ballot drop boxes.

Wiggam, along with six other Republicans, is co-sponsoring HB 387.

Wiggam also stated that the current period of early voting was too long, citing this as a reason to support HB 387.

"What's the difference between 30 and 40 and 50? How about a year of early voting? How many days do you actually have to have in order to go vote?" Wiggam asked.

# Legalize every drug

America has lost the war on drugs, and this isn't new news by any means. However, how long will the judicial and penal system keep repeating the same mistakes before they realize something needs to change?

The war on drugs wasted billions of taxpayer dollars. Not to mention the cost to the Black community has been so much more — thousands of lives were lost and Black people rotted away behind bars for minor drug offenses.

The criminalization of drugs and penalization of both dealers and users alike has not proven to be worthwhile for America as a whole. It's very apparent that something needs to change if we are to properly address social issues, such as gang violence and addiction. The current tactics failed long ago.

However, radical steps toward changing the approach to the way drugs are handled in American society have recently been taken by the state of Oregon with Measure 110.

Last year, Oregon passed

Measure 110, a bill that decriminalizes all drug use. Under Measure 110, the possession of small amounts of any and all drugs is punishable by a fine of no more than \$100. In lieu of the charge, the person can complete a health assessment at an addiction center.

Oregon's new law is similar to the national decriminalization of all drugs in Portugal that took place in 2001. The Portuguese measure was also a decriminalization of all drugs, not a complete legalization. However, I still feel this radical decriminalization is not enough, and the politics surrounding drugs still needs to be heavily reevaluated.

What has taken place in Oregon and Portugal were only measures to decriminalize, rather than legalize. However, I feel legalization is the next step in truly addressing the public health issue of addiction; that's what addiction is — a public health issue.

The war on drugs treated this health issue as a public nuisance or extreme crime

that needs to be quelled rather than treated.

Complete legalization is the best option. It takes addicts out of the shadows and into the forefront of the discussion about addiction as a disease, as opposed to a blight on society. Legalization could solve many of these negative side effects addiction has on both the individual and society.

Making treatment more accessible and addiction itself less stigmatized is the first issue with addiction that legalization would address. By making drugs legal, and even government-regulated, the stigma behind addiction would be lessened. It would become a less taboo subject within popular society, and treatment would be more accessible as social workers and treatment facilities would work in close contact with dispensaries.

Also, the tax revenue state governments make from dispensaries could go toward setting up treatment facilities and paying social workers who are equipped to help ad-

dicts with their disease. Theoretically, it would also help take money away from those criminal organizations that highly benefit from the prohibition of drugs.

Additionally, legalizing drugs could bring about a decrease in overdoses. Indulge me for a moment: envision an America that has dispensaries for what are currently illegal substances.

Heroin at a dispensary would be cleaner and purer because it would be government-regulated. There could be rooms with sanitary beds and clean needles, providing a safe environment for drug users. However, first and foremost, dispensaries could have addiction specialists on site in order to provide therapy and offer opportunities to treat their disease on a more long-term basis.

Decriminalization is a step in the right direction, but after a decades-long war on inanimate objects and wasted taxpayer dollars, there needs to be a leap in the right direction rather than a mere step.

Prohibition of drugs pushes people into the shadows: people who need help and have personal issues that need to be addressed rather than stigmatized.

Legalization of drugs would be able to bring people from the shadows and into the light of day where their disease can be recognized, addressed and treated. Prohibition only demonizes these people and their conditions, thereby forcing them to continue their habits in secretive and dangerous ways. In the long run, it makes it so much harder for these people who are in need to get the help they require.



John Smithmeyer is a senior philosophy major. He is a guest writer for *Newswire* from Cincinnati.

## From White Jesus to White supremacy

Our master Yeshua Bin Mariam is a representative of God, renowned for his kindness, wisdom, patience and perseverance. He is venerated and loved by billions for the piety for which he strived.

So, whether Jesus Christ in the Western world, Yeshu Masih in India or Isa ibn Mariam in the Arab world, he is deeply respected for his devotion towards his Lord. Among the prophets, he is the mightiest. Among humanity, he is the holiest.

But unfortunately, with all things holy, it is nearly inevitable that he is defiled and dishonored. And those who have dishonored and blasphemed our prophet have done so with the blood, tears and anguish of the colonized. Namely, the Europeans of the Renaissance and their settler descendants who have plundered and stolen every ounce of dignity

from their colonies.

They have weaponized the Messiah by disfiguring him with pale skin, blue eyes and blond hair; by promoting this corruption as the ideal human figure and by teaching their children that since

Jesus is perfect, it must follow that Whiteness is perfection. Instead of honoring the strength of Christ, they dishonored it by making him the God of White supremacy.

From this global deception came hell for humanity. During the Enlightenment, Whiteness had been made so synonymous with purity and divinity that people who weren't White were considered the antithesis of these honorable qualities.

For centuries, the Black and Brown races have been cursed with torment because we bear the "mark of Cain," because our mere existence opposes the traits of holiness and purity. For centuries, this vile White Jesus, bearing

no resemblance or relation to the true Son of Mary (peace be upon him), has been used to torment and cleanse the world of all who bear this mark.

He has raped us, hung us, cut open the bellies of our mothers, burned us, forced many of us into his religion and has preached that the darker-skinned must hate themselves and must yearn to look like the European, since he has been made the standard of elegance, civility, morality and intellect.

600 years. 600 years of Black and Brown bodies enslaved and discarded. 600 years of our self image and identity destroyed by White Jesus and his creators. 600 years of our skin color being the mark of Cain the Murderer. And after 600 years, he still has the nerve to preach to us about salvation from sin. Despicable.

What's more is that this caricature of devils is the national God of our country. The American diety, and his loyal prophet Uncle Sam, have made the enslavement, lynching, persecution and humiliation of non-White and impoverished individuals an obligation on every citizen. But those who refuse to abide by this commandment, and instead choose to feed the people and liberate them, are labeled as heretics. "Communists," "radicals," "violent" and "evil," they call us.

They shoot us as we sleep, like they did with Fred Hampton. They hang us while we fight, as they did with John Brown, or they leave us to die alone and sickly as they did with Thomas Paine. This is the fate for people who apostize from the American religion, the worship of White Christ.

And if the mark of Cain is my darker skin, then I embrace it, and I am proud to bear it. And if rejection of this distorted Jesus is heretical, then I make heresy my religion.



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

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# Violence can be quiet

There is a quiet violence in the way women's passions and work are ignored, disregarded and erased. It is silent, and it is everywhere.

There is a quiet violence painted across the history of womankind. Behind the revolutions, massacres and witch hunts is a bloodless brutality that every woman faces.

Leo Tolstoy is regarded as the greatest Russian writer, and yet his wife Sophia published his works, managed his estate, raised their thirteen children and cooked two different meals every night because he was a vegetarian, all with no help and no regard for her emotions and needs.

It was Sophia who edited and copied his manuscripts. She wrote the manuscript for *War and Peace* six times, correcting his spelling and grammar and making suggestions for the plot to appeal more to a general audience.

And yet, after all of this, Tolstoy named a male friend as the executor of his estate before his death and allowed his works to become public domain, when Sophia had previously owned them for her publishing company.

She wrote in her diary:

*"Today, he shouted at the top of his voice that his dearest wish was to leave his family. I shall carry the memory of that heartfelt, heart-rending cry to my grave. I pray for death. For without his love I can not survive."*

Abandoned. Discarded. Ignored.

F. Scott Fitzgerald stole letters and journals from his wife Zelda and refused to let her publish any of her own work because he used it in his own books and stories.

Silenced. Controlled. Smothered.

Women scientists conducted invaluable research on airplane design, ballistics calculations and vitamin preservation during World War I. Women worked in factories, drove trucks and repaired airplanes. They served on the front lines as nurses. They were wounded. Taken prisoner. Killed.

They are reduced to the women weeping at home, waiting for their brave soldiers to return.

Midwives were the mothers of medicine, with their knowledge of childbirth, herbal remedies and even

medical procedures outside of delivery and childcare. They were called witches. They were drowned. They were burned at the stake.

Where are the women? Where are the artists? The musicians? The scientists and

mathematicians and inventors?

Loyal wives. Loyal mothers. Loyal women.

Women are at the center of culture, history and revolution. They create life. They are the beginnings of the human race and sufferers of the sacred act of birth.

Women are the model of God.

Even on a small scale, passions and hobbies are set aside for the sake of the home, the husband and the children.

There is nothing wrong with choosing to be a wife or a mother. There is nothing wrong with keeping the home, the center of life and love.

But throughout history, women haven't been allowed to choose. They've been forced.

I'm just so tired of scrub-

bing myself clean. I'm so tired of the mask I wear to please the men I know and the men I don't know. It's getting heavy. It's always been heavy.

My ex-boyfriend loved watching obscure movies, and he wanted to study film. He

judged me for watching reality shows.

He thought they were stupid and vain.

My father hates that my mother watches HGTV. He thinks the people are annoying, and that the shows are pointless.

A boy in my sister's engineering class cussed her out for "taking" his spot in the aerospace major.

When my sister told a man she liked to knit, he responded that it was "natural for her to have domestic hobbies."

I've read stories of women controlled by their fathers. By their husbands and brothers.

It is everywhere and always and now.

We're suffocated. We're suffocating. We're haunted and haunting. We're eaten alive.

Only by naming the monster can we kill it. I know its name. Its name is patriarchy. Its name is manhood. Masculinity. Oppression.

Womanhood is not a sin. It is not a crime. It is not something to be erased or disregarded. The things we love and contribute and invent and create are important, because they come from us. Toxic ideas of manhood and masculinity, of femininity and domesticity, are the violence by which we suffer in silence.

I don't want to suffer anymore. I want to create. I want to speak. I want to love. I want to live. I want every woman to do the same.

I know the monster's name. Only when we kill it will we finally know what it is to be free.



Grace Hamilton is a sophomore political science major. She is a staff writer for *NewsWire* from Akron, Ohio.

## First-year frenzy

Let's get one thing straight: first-years are not college students. Or, at least, not mentally.

They go to and live at a college, yes, but in their mindset, they are more akin to experienced high school seniors than they are the typical, functional college kid. It's almost a Schrodinger's age gap. They are, in reality, often legal adults, yet there's this persistent feeling that they're so much younger.

If I had a dollar for how many times I heard my Manresa friends call their group members "their kids," I'd have some serious spending money.

There is a certain social immaturity that arrives with each incoming class, and with it, first-years tend to fill in the blanks with common perceptions of what it means to live at college. This fits into the usual, negative clichés: drinking, pot and dorm room "ragers." And while I could say my fill on those

practices, there is one category that I find doesn't get talked about nearly enough: relationships and hookups.

Here's the thing. We're all of legal age here, but re-winding the conversation back to Manresa, I've heard one horror story after another of different Manresa leaders who have all had to deal with or overhear one of their group members flirt with them or their partner. Every single time the common consensus has been an overwhelming feeling of disgust or being creeped out.

But, why do we feel that way? A lot of it has been concluded to involve that artificial age gap, but it's really a matter of experience.

I write this as a sophomore, someone only a year older than the first-year class. However, that year was spent at college. That means I already have a full year under my belt.

The first-years, by contrast, are inexperienced and

don't fully know what they're doing as of yet and how to function in this new environment. I mean, that's why they're forced to take Goa. The most exposure they have to higher education is a couple AP classes and a college visit. So, it comes as no shock to say there is a stark power dynamic between the incoming class and the rest of us.

I'm no philosophy major, but I like to think that humans are inherently good, or at the very least, aware of the opportunities around them to be good. When a situation arises where a first-year flirts with the upper classes, a lot of us are able to identify the power gap and know that, even if it's legal, it still doesn't feel right.

Those upperclassmen who may accept a first-year's advances, however, are abusing the power dynamic between them, and thus, will not have the first-year's best interests at heart. They may recognize

that they know more than a first-year, and they may also recognize a first-year's desire to feel mature through their relationship.

This could lead to taking advantage of that, too. The bigger the age gap, the bigger the issue in my opinion. So while I can't tell a first-year not to pursue relationships such as these, all I can say is please be careful.

So by now, I'm sure I've received a lot of rolled eyes and sighs from first-years who think I'm some abstinent Puritan type, but that's not my intent. I was just like you all last year, thinking I needed to rush into something that I couldn't control to feel bigger and more mature. So leave with this parting advice: Give it some time.

Right now, I speak for quite a few upperclassmen when I say your advances are not charming. They are weird. We don't find you more mature for having the

cajones to hit us with your best pick-up line, we just find it jarring. If pursuing a relationship with an upper-classman is something you actually want, give it at least until the end of second semester — although honestly, sophomore year is more preferable, personally. That way you are able to take the time to grow as a person and really start to know what you want.

And if this all really does boil down to maturity? Well, there's nothing more mature than being able to know yourself.



Griffin Brammer is a sophomore nursing major. He is a staff writer for *NewsWire* from Dublin, Ohio.

**Want to respond?**  
**Have an idea for an opinion piece?**  
**Submissions are open!**  
**Email: [gstalderc@xavier.edu](mailto:gstalderc@xavier.edu)**

# Scrimmages start seasons smoothly

*Team Scruggs took the win in softball while men's soccer lost to Bowling Green*

By TYLER CLIFTON  
Staff Writer

A doubleheader took place last Friday at Hayden and Corcoran Fields, featuring two Muskie sports back-to-back.

The afternoon consisted of the men's basketball team playing a slow-pitch softball game on the baseball field, followed by the men's soccer team playing their first preseason game of the year against Bowling Green.

The softball game provided fans an opportunity to see the men's basketball team do something far more casual than what they're used to seeing.

For those in attendance,

one of the more exciting elements to watch was the assistant coaches play. Assistant coach Jonas Hayes hit home runs in two consecutive at bats.

According to junior health services major Amanda Hagedorn, that was the most fun part of the game.

"You could see everyone was smiling and having a good time. The players were laughing as Coach Hayes was jogging around the basepaths," Hagedorn added.

When asked who took the softball game most seriously, junior criminal justice major Jack Dzierzanowski had only one answer.

"Oh, Coach Steele by far," he said. "In fact, there were a couple times where he



Photo courtesy of @XavierMSoc via Twitter  
**Xavier had a doubleheader on Friday evening, as the men's basketball team played their annual softball game, which was won by Team Scruggs 10-7. Immediately following, the men's soccer team played an exhibition.**

pegged some of the players and the umpire almost threw him out."

The game ended 10-7 with

a win for fifth-year senior guard Paul Scruggs's team, and after the seven inning game was completed, the teams decided to play an extra inning just for fun.

Once the game ended, students, staff and faculty made their way over to watch Xavier's men's soccer take the pitch for the first time this season.

The Musketeers are coming off a relatively rough 3-7-1 year, but they have higher expectations coming into this season.

The fans were loud at the start and only grew more raucous when Xavier scored a quick goal to take an early lead.

The cheers quickly went silent, however, as Bowling Green scored two quick goals to take a 2-1 lead going into halftime.

The match played out similarly in the second half as Xavier attacked early, but Bowling Green proved to be the better team on the day.

The final score was 4-2 Bowling Green.

The men's basketball will play their true season opener on Nov. 9 against the Niagara Purple Eagles in Cintas Center.

The men's soccer team's next game is at home at 6 p.m. on Friday against Eastern Illinois in what will be their official season opener.



Photos courtesy of @XavierMBB via Twitter

## Xavier women's soccer opens up new season 2-0

*Xavier picked up a road win over No. 21 St. Louis before beating Northwestern*

By WILL PEMBROKE  
Show Manager

The Xavier women's soccer team turned in a pair of excellent performances last weekend, showcasing the team's potential for great success entering the season.

Game One occurred in St. Louis versus the No. 21 ranked St. Louis University Billikens. The game, which was also streamed on ESPN+, was nothing short of a dominant outing for the Musketeers, specifically dominating defensively, as the defense only allowed six shots with just two on goal for the Billikens.

Xavier's offense tripled that shot total, ending with 18, six of which were on goal.

Sophomore forward Sonia Vargas scored the match's lone goal late, near the 85-minute mark.

Senior goalkeeper Olivia Jenkins secured a shutout with two saves, as the Musketeer's went on to win 1-0.

The Musketeers dominated in similar fashion in their second game against Northwestern at Corcoran Field, winning 2-1.

Despite the close score, Xavier's defense showed up in a big way against the Wild-



Photos courtesy of @XavierWSoc via Twitter

**Xavier' women's soccer got off to a hot start to their season, taking a road win from a ranked St. Louis team before returning home to beat Northwestern. Xavier was anchored by their strong defense in both matches.**

cats. Northwestern was only able to muster seven shots,

with just four of those being on goal.

While the Musketeers surrendered their first goal of

the season in the first half, they finished strong, allowing no goals in the final 60 minutes of the match.

Jenkins had a solid performance, ending with three saves and only one goal allowed. Offensively, Xavier had a solid showing with 15 shots, eight of which were on goal.

Freshman forward Mathilde Rasmussen put the team's first score on the board in the 52nd minute, following a great pass from Vargas.

That would not be the freshman's only score of the match however, as Rasmussen put home another goal off a free kick in the 64th minute, pushing Xavier in front of Northwestern for the remainder of the match.

A 2-0 start to the season has put the Musketeer women's soccer team in a good spot heading into the weekend.

Tonight, Xavier faces off against archrival University of Cincinnati at 7:00 p.m. on Corcoran Field.

On Aug. 29, the Musketeers will be at home again to take on Murray State at 1:00 p.m. The Musketeers then travel to Champaign, Ill. for a big non-conference matchup with the University of Illinois.

# Pixar shorts persistently impress

BY JOE CLARK  
Sports Page Editor

Pixar is well known for having not only some of the best animated movies in history (and being a major driver for computer-generated animation) but also for having some pretty amazing shorts.

Here, I'll be ranking the five best animated shorts, with one caveat — the short had to be attached to a theatrical release, which eliminates any SparkShorts or feature-related shorts.

Without further ado, here's my personal ranking of the top five Pixar shorts.

## 5. "Partly Cloudy"

"Partly Cloudy" is a story about sticking with your friend when times get tough.

The stork becomes battered and bruised by his deliveries, but he's good friends with the cloud, who feels bad that he can't make anything as pretty as the other clouds, who make babies, puppies and kittens.

"Partly Cloudy" is ultimately about friendship, as the



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

In the Pixar short, "Piper", a small bird fights and overcomes her fears.

stork perseveres and adapts to keep helping out his friend. This short is heartwarming and funny at the same time.

## 4. "La Luna"

Directed by Enrico Casarosa, who also directed *Luca*, "La Luna" is thematically similar. Like *Luca*, "La Luna" centers on a boy trying to find his

way in the world.

While his dad and grandfather bicker about everything from the way the boy wears his hat to how to sweep up the stars on the moon (where they work) he tries to emulate both of them. When a shooting star gets wedged in the moon, the two men can't figure out how to get it out.

As they push and pull, the boy symbolically turns his hat backwards and climbs to the top of the star, hitting it with a hammer as hundreds of smaller stars flutter out from it.

It's a story of independence and forging your own path with a beautiful setting off the coast of Italy. It's definitely a fun watch.

## 3. "The Blue Umbrella"

"The Blue Umbrella" is a beautifully animated story of teamwork.

In a world of black and grey umbrellas, there's one blue umbrella who becomes enamored with a red umbrella. When the people holding

the umbrellas go in opposite directions, the blue umbrella fears it'll never see the red umbrella again and forces its way out of the hands of the man carrying it.

Eventually though, with the help from a few friends including a living construction barrier and storm grate, the two umbrellas are reunited in a heartfelt ending.

## 2. "Piper"

A cute story about overcoming fear, "Piper" is about a sandpiper who struggles to get food when the waves come crashing to shore. After being caught under a wave, Piper is fearful of going back to the shore to gather food.

She shows her resilience when she copies a hermit crab digging in the sand to get its food, and gets more food than the rest of the flock. Piper then overcomes her fear of going in the water, realizing that the ocean isn't as scary as she thought.

The animation is once again the highlight. It's incredibly detailed and vibrant, with the

sand and water really popping off the screen.

## 1. "Lava"

Inspired by the music of Israel Kamakawiwo'ole, "Lava" is about a singing volcano just trying to find love.

As he gets older and older, he doesn't think he ever will, but he continues to sing his song to find "someone to lava." He eventually sinks under the ocean, defeated that his quest to find love was futile.

However, another volcano heard his song everyday, and when he went under the ocean she came up, and she sang his song. Upon hearing someone else sing his song, his lava was reignited and he rose back above the ocean, and the two volcanoes lived happily ever after.

Unlike most shorts, which feature instrumentals, "Lava" has a song throughout that's incredibly peaceful and tells the story.

It inspired me to buy a ukulele, which should be enough evidence that it's really freaking good.



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

Watch as a young boy navigates a starry situation in the short, "La Luna."

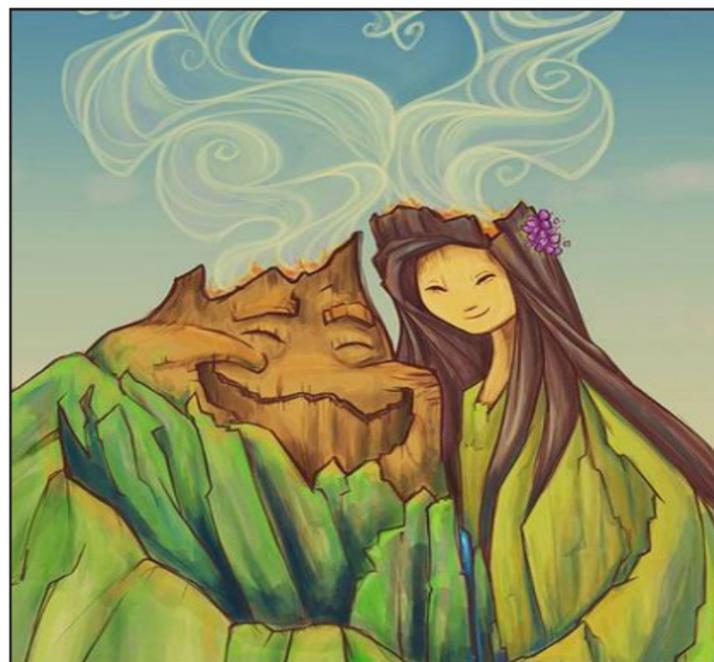


Photo courtesy of flickr.com

A hopelessly romantic volcano finds love in the Pixar short film, "Lava."

# Some Cincinnati events you won't want to miss

Check out a few of the upcoming events the Queen City has to offer you

BY KATE FERRELL  
A&E Page Editor

Cincinnati is a bustling hub of activity, culture and people. With fall just around the corner, Cincinnati is pulling out all of the stops to keep the people entertained and coming back for more.

If you're looking for something fun to do on your weekends and to take a break from the stress of life and academics, you might want to check out some of these events coming to our very own Queen City.

## The Krohn Conservatory Butterfly Show

Go check out the "Butterflies of Bali" exhibit at the Krohn Conservatory. This breathtaking exhibit is only open until Sept. 6 so make sure you act fast — go see



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

Maroon 5 will be coming to Riverbend Music Center this weekend only. the butterflies before they're gone!

## Maroon 5/ Blackbear Concert

Happening at Riverbend Music Center on Saturday, three-time grammy award winning band Maroon 5 will be bringing their musical tal-

ents to Cincinnati.

While tickets for this event may be hard to come by, I recommend attending if given the chance.

## Yappy Hour

Ever wanted to drink beer and play with dogs? Here's your chance. MadTree Brew-

ing is hosting their Yappy Hour on Aug. 31 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m..

At this event they will have a wide assortment of dog vendors, adoptable pets, dog-friendly games, prizes and so much more! If you're a pet lover, this might be just the event for you.

## Cincinnati Hispanic Fest

This festival features food, entertainment, dancing and much more all revolving around Hispanic culture. You can attend this cultural celebration on Sept. 5 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. for absolutely no cost.

This is just one of Cincy's many cultural fairs but definitely not one you want to miss.

Free admission and endless fun: what more could you want from an afternoon?



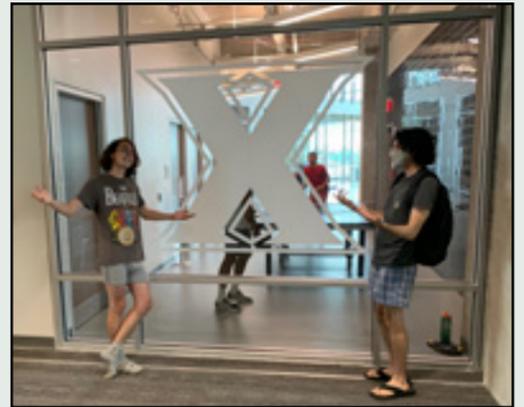
Photo courtesy of flickr.com

# Masks, Pants and More Now Optional in the HUB



**BY CHARLIE GSTALDER** *Opinions & Editorials Editor* As I'm sure you've heard by now, Xavier has declared that masks are no longer required inside the Health United Building (HUB). In celebration of the joyous news, we here at the Back Page have compiled a list of other inconveniences that will no longer be required at the HUB.

**Pants:** Effective immediately, pants, shorts, skirts and all other primary leg coverings will no longer be mandated in the HUB. In lieu of traditional bottom garments, students are strongly encouraged to wear either fluffy pink leg warmers or thigh-high, neon green Nike Elite socks.



*Pantless students engaging in lively banter.*

**Condoms:** When you really think about it, masks are nothing more than condoms for your face — they're both designed to block potentially virus-laden bodily fluids from entering another person — so if you don't need one, why should you wear the other? Thus, all condoms (latex, lambskin or otherwise) will no longer be required inside the HUB. It is important to note that the HUB is still strongly recommending that students wear condoms while participating in certain forms of Ancient Greek morale-building.

**Personal Hygiene:** The managers of the HUB were so inspired by the stories of Jake Gyllenhaal, Mila Kunis, Aston Kutcher, Kristen Bell and so many other celebrities who refuse to bathe that they have stopped requiring HUB patrons to practice any form of personal hygiene. Gone are the days of washing your hands, giving your gym socks a sniff and dousing yourself in deodorant before going to workout. Now you can play pickup basketball with all the cleanliness of a fourteenth century peasant!



**Aries:** Despite this unbearable heat, that weird kid who sits in the back of your class will still wear sweatpants everyday. Befriend him and learn his powers.



**Taurus:** You are allowed to kill one person, as a treat. The stars recommend the random person who sits next to you in the Caf and loudly calls their friend.



**Gemini:** Kendrick is dropping a new song on Friday, but who cares? The only good music is anime intros and video game soundtracks.



**Cancer:** Your love life is like the café in the library: completely devoid of any signs of life.



**Leo:** Think Xavier students are prudes? Think again! Simply download Yik Yak to read the vilest stuff you'll ever lay your eyes upon, all from the minds of Musketeers.



**Virgo:** Avoid campus after midnight; all the statues come alive *Night at the Museum*-style, and St. Ignatius is a big creep.



**Libra:** Don't vape in the Alter bathrooms. There's a chance your professor will walk in and confront you, or worse, ask for a hit.



**Scorpio:** Stop fawning over that manic pixie dream girl who sits next you in class; you are not Scott Pilgrim, and she's gay.



**Sagittarius:** Avoid showering right before class. You won't look clean; you'll just look wet.



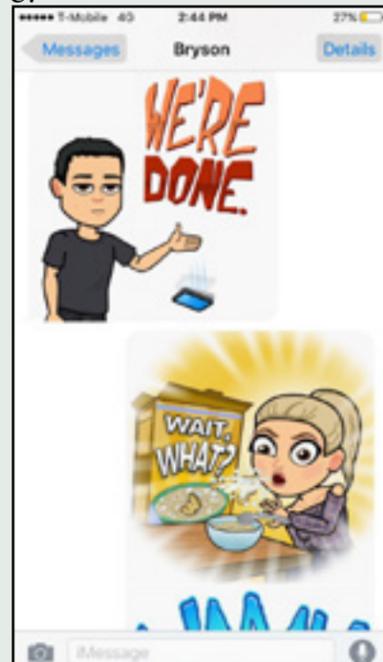
**Capricorn:** If you're late to class, just take the 'L' and walk in a few minutes late. Don't be one of those weirdos sprinting across campus like you're being chased by the ghost of Father Graham.



**Aquarius:** Never sit at those tables by the stairs on the bottom floor of Gallagher. That's where the theater kids like to nest, and they are fiercely territorial creatures.



**Pisces:** You're in a rut. This is because the new *Jeopardy!* host hasn't been selected yet, a factor which has a profound effect on your life. Don't even get me started on what will happen to you if they don't choose LeVar Burton.



*Bitmoji breakups are surprisingly common.*

**A will to live:** Do you feel little motivation to get out of bed each morning? Has the world been seeming colorless and devoid of meaning? Maybe you failed your first exam, lost your fake at Lateral or were recently dumped via Snapchat Bitmoji. Whatever the reason may be, you no longer have to worry about your antipathy towards existence stopping you from getting your pump in!

**Vaccines:** The HUB was so blown away by the positive feedback to the University recommending but not requiring the COVID-19 vaccine that they have decided to extend their policy to all immunizations. So, if you're a little behind on your meningitis, HPV or measles vaccinations, the HUB is now open for you! Feel free to wait for your TriHealth appointment in all your mump-y glory.

**Personality:** Students who have no discernable positive personality traits and their poor friends will be thrilled to hear that no one in the HUB is required to have a personality. While this rule change was primarily tailored towards insufferably gym-obsessed students, others including J. Cole fans, A24 film buffs, horse girls, people who are too proud of their hometown and "mom friends" are expected to reap huge benefits.



*Horse Girl.*

In closing, it's important to remember that none of the things on this list are banned, they are just no longer required. However, please be aware that just as it is embarrassing to be the only one wearing a mask, it will be equally embarrassing to be the only one with a personality wearing pants.

## Fictionary

The "It Is Way Too Goddamn Hot" Edition

BY TESS BREWER  
*Staff Writer*

**Schlumpy** (*sh-luhm-pee*): Describes the negative correlation between the amount of humidity and the amount of motivation one has to walk to class.  
*Example: It's really schlumpy out there, and I really don't want to go over to Elet Hall.*

**Thfick** (*thh-fff-i-cc-k*): The particular sound thighs make when peeling off of a plastic chair.

**Ballizmageleth** (*Bahl-is-maag-eh-leeth*): Circa 1431; demon of humidity, name used to curse enemies with awful, sticky weather.  
*Example: May your days be as hot as Ballizmageleth!*