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Faculty Speak on Deters' Appointment

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The University's new strategic plan prioritizes "set(ting)the national collegiate standard for Ignatian Civic Engagement" for Xavier's campus.

Senior leadership's non-response to a student petition challenging Joe Deters' "Justice in Residence" appointment, and the ensuing editorials in The Cincinnati Enquirer, and President Colleen Hanycz's statements on the Enquirer's That's So Cincinnati podcast indicate that they are unserious about achieving that goal.

After the appointment was announced, some students objected, began civically engaging and [circulated a petition](#) for their classmates and alumni's consideration. At this moment, the petition has 760 signatures and was submitted to university leadership over a week ago.

Hanycz and senior leadership have yet to reciprocate students' civic engagement. There has been no public response or discussion within the Xavier community.

The stakes are high.

Disengagement with the students' petition calls into question the strategic plan, Take It On, other civic engagement initiatives and the university's Jesuit Catholic values and Ignatian gifts.

Civic engagement asks community members to collectively participate in shaping their community's values and to address issues of public concern.

One way to engage is through a petition. Indeed, the right to petition is fundamental to American free speech and is articulated in the First Amendment.

Civic engagement goes beyond voting to include questioning, challenging and holding those in power accountable, particularly those in public and elected positions.

Challenging the content of a public figure or official's speech is civic engagement. It does not "cancel" that person but asks for accountability.

The students' petition did all of this. By challenging Deters' record as an elected Hamilton County prosecutor,

they held him accountable for his public service.

The administration's silence is disingenuous, especially at an institution of higher education that espouses using and teaching civic engagement.

The only public response from the university was a statement quoted in a March 14 article in the Enquirer, titled "[Antithetical to our values.' Justice Joe Deters' residency at Xavier courts criticism.](#)"

The statement noted that "higher education is a marketplace of ideas" and that, at Xavier, "we embrace difficult conversations and intellectual discomfort as part of our mission. It is through challenging conversations that we learn to better understand our own positions and engage with those who hold different views."

Marketplaces are public exchanges. Ideas must be exchanged in public venues, like classrooms, official announcements, shared petitions and newspaper editorials.

Yet, no public discussion has taken place on campus even after students, who through their petition, contributed their ideas to the marketplace, clearly articulated their concerns and began a challenging, uncomfortable conversation.

Further, Hanycz stated on the [March 21 episode of That's So Cincinnati](#) that, "Universities must be marketplaces of ideas where we are forced to encounter ideas and views and perspectives that not only make us think but ideally make us uncomfortable."

And yet Hanycz and senior leadership have yet to truly "encounter" the ideas, views, and perspectives of the Xavier community, ignoring frequent requests for public discussion and deliberation.

And this conversation was always going to be uncomfortable.

The newly appointed Ohio Supreme Court justice's prosecutorial career is marked by

controversies that run counter to Xavier's stated mission and values. He invoked [racist dog whistles](#) and [victim blamed a sexual assault plaintiff](#) whose case he tried.

His robust use of the death penalty was [rebuked by a Jesuit superior](#) and he has [advocated for resurrecting firing squads](#).

When discussing Ohio's

bail reform Issue 1 in a press conference, he stated that "[innocent until proven guilty](#)" was "[bullshit](#)." Deters is a controversial public figure in Cincinnati and now a controversial figure on the Ohio Supreme Court.

When university leadership approved Deters' appointment, they brought the public official and his controversies into Xavier's community and idea marketplace.

Especially given that Xavier's marketplace embraces difficult conversations and intellectual discomfort as part of its mission and strategic plan, Hanycz and senior leadership

should not only have expected pushback, but they should have welcomed it.

No one has joined the marketplace to publicly reply to students other than Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost, Hamilton County Common Pleas Judge Megan Shanahan and University of Cincinnati English professor R.J. Boutelle. All have published editorials in the Enquirer.

Yost demanded that students engage but then characterized their petition as leading to the rise of authoritarianism.

Shanahan described students as "extremists" for engaging and asserting their First Amendment rights.

Boutelle, a UC professor, defended Xavier students, calling their rejection of Deters "substantive, moral and principled," and "by definition, an exchange of ideas."

The authors of this editorial have watched and waited for Hanycz and senior leadership to respond with openness, dialogue and civic commitment, as Xavier's mission directs and as students have asked. They can wait no longer.

To date, neither Hanycz, senior leadership nor Deters have participated in the university's public marketplace or in the difficult conversations that students and others want to have.

Students and Xavier were twice maligned in the press by public officials for their civic engagement. Hanycz and senior leadership did not defend students' efforts in the marketplace from public attacks.

Despite repeatedly defining Xavier as a community that encourages and teaches civic engagement, leadership has not engaged.

Additionally, over the past few years, Xavier's senior leadership established initiatives that provide guidelines

for uncomfortable conversations in Xavier's marketplace of ideas through Take It On and the 2021 [President's Cabinet Commitment to Fight against Racism](#).

Last year, Take It On also undertook the [Ignatian Campus Speech Initiative](#). The result was the [Principles of Free Speech and Expression](#), reaffirming Xavier's commitments to "diversity, inclusion, equity" and Xavier's "pedagogic responsibility to advance rational discourse."

In the [2023 Cincinnati College Guide](#), Xavier's advertorial promotes the notions that Xavier students and graduates "challenge convention" and are "bound by a code of community."

What's more, in 2020, The Jesuit Conference of Canada and the U.S. also issued a [guide to Ignatian civic engagement](#). The conference provides several principles, including Pope Francis' statement that "a good Catholic meddles in politics," the Jesuit "approach to politics is rooted in closeness with those on the margins of society" and that "Ignatian civic engagement requires confronting systemic racism."

Given that Xavier's marketplace of ideas has clear guidelines encouraging difficult debate and uncomfortable conversations, university leadership's unwillingness to partake in the discussion they

have fostered and outlined is hypocritical.

Xavier's clearly defined marketplace indicates that students are right to question Deters' appointment.

Senior leadership can and should engage with students' concerns.

At the very least, Hanycz and senior leadership should uphold their "pedagogic responsibility" by modeling civic disagreement and providing a dissenting response to the petition.

Hanycz and senior leadership can still join the conversation students started and that local and state public officials have continued.

Xavier's leaders have an amazing opportunity to live the mission and to put their words into action.

Deters, too, should join the conversation. Answer students' concerns. Explain his public comments. Debate the death penalty and firing squads.

Xavier students deserve the civic engagement they have been promised and for which they have asked.

This opinion has been endorsed by the following faculty (in alphabetical order):

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Diane Ceo-DiFrancesco, Professor of Classics and Modern Languages

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XU Continues Shift to Digital All Cards

Xavier Auxiliary Services continues to make progress towards digital student IDs

BY CLARE MCKINLEY
Staff Writer

Xavier's Auxiliary Services continues to make progress in transitioning physical All Cards to digital ones and aspires to be fully electronic by 2024.

The All Card, students' key to every building, dorm room and event will soon be obsolete. Instead, students will be able to access everything they need through an app on their phone.

The digital One Pass became available last year through the app Transact. By downloading the app, students can sync their Xavier account to their phones or smart watches; instead of inserting a card, they tap their device near a reader.

Currently, Auxiliary Services is in a transitional period. The main barrier they face to becoming fully electronic is changing the locks on the doors, which is a lengthy and expensive process.

"Most places are One Pass ready, but we do have a few places where it is still card only, particularly in the dorms with locks. Hopefully soon we'll be able to replace those, which is fairly expensive and why it hasn't happened yet. We're doing it in phases. Until we can do all that, we still have

to have the All Card for some of our customers at least," Senior Director of Auxiliary Services Bill Moran said.

The next phase of the transition is to replace the locks in Buenger Hall, Justice Hall, Manor House and University Apartments this summer, which would only leave Kuhlman and Husman Halls to be replaced in Summer of 2024. After that, every place on campus will be One Pass ready, and the physical card will likely not be distributed to incoming students.

According to Aux Services, the purpose of this change is to ensure the security and the convenience of all Xavier students. The One Pass is password protected and ensures that people cannot copy a student's information.

The One Pass has been tested to work up to eight hours after a phone has died and also functions with a cracked screen. Moran expects that people are less likely to lose their phone than they are to lose an All Card.

"We were doing about 1,000 All Card replacements per year... We hope that with the One Pass that number is way smaller," Moran said.

"We've experienced that people generally would have their phone with them, as opposed to having maybe a wal-

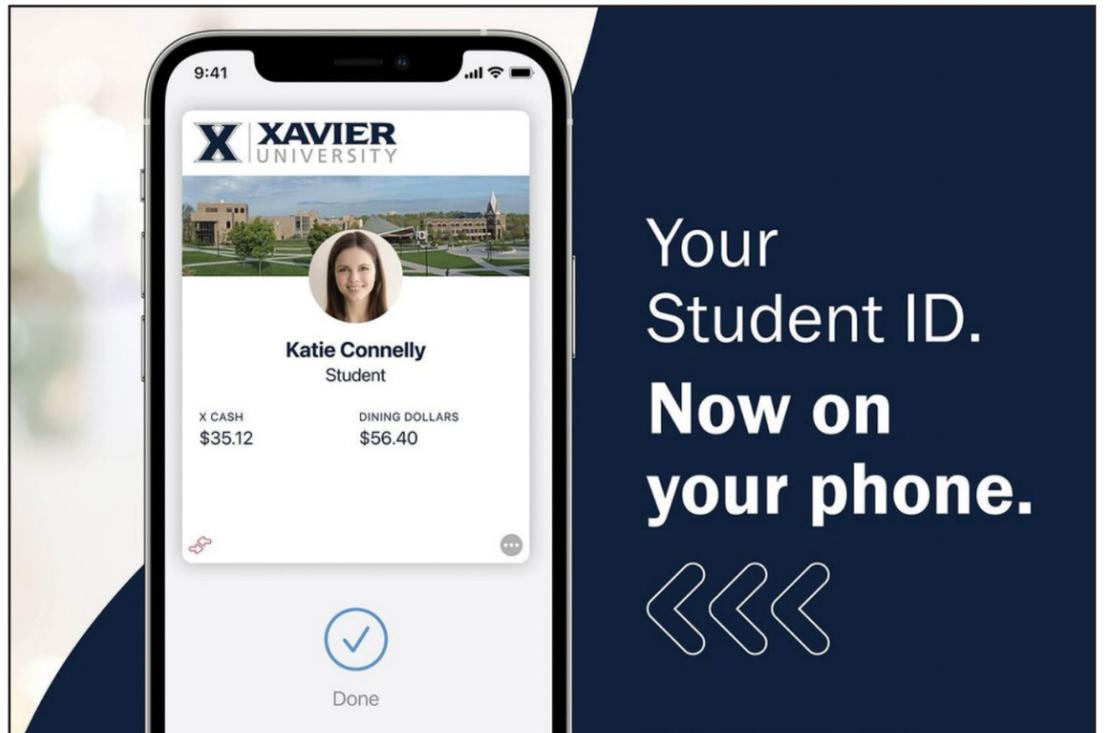


Photo courtesy of @XUAuxServices via Instagram
Xavier students' IDs are beginning to be fully functional on their mobile devices, as Aux Services continues to make progress on the movement of digital All Cards.

let or purse that would have the physical ID in it. So we think that we have attached ourselves to kind of a form factor that they always have, so it's a convenient way to interact with us and not have to wonder where their card is or go back to the room to get it," he continued.

Sarah Beesley, a first-year economics, sustainability and society major, shared a similar feeling when she heard about the possibility of not having

to deal with an All Card.

"I always go everywhere with my phone and use it to tap into most places, so it will be nice that I'll have one less thing to deal with," she said.

For students who still use the All Card for everything, the lack of a physical card will be an adjustment.

"I'm upset I'll have to download another app on my phone now. And call me old fashioned, but I like something I can physically hold in my

hand," sophomore psychology major Sean Dwyer said.

After the transition is complete, Auxiliary Services will be open to offering a vanity ID All Card to go with the One Pass for a small fee, but their goal is to reach a point where there is only one identification per person.

"Because each identification out there is a liability, by 2024, we want to close that gap," Moran said.

King Records Studio and its Tie to Xavier's Campus

BY MICHAEL COLGLAZIER
Staff Writer

Those familiar with popular Xavier housing neighborhoods may recognize King Records Studio, located on Brewster Avenue. What seems to be a worn-down building of yesteryear was actually home to some of the most influential music from the 1940s through the 1970s. All that is currently left of King Records is a plaque from the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame recognizing the record label's innovation.

Originally beginning as a record label for country music in 1943, King Records evolved into a label for R&B music by '45. Many important songs such as Hank Ballard's "The Twist," Little Willie John's "Fever" and James Brown's "Say it Loud (I'm Black and I'm Proud)" were recorded at this studio.

The artists had fond memories of the studio. Bootsie Collins remembered feeling like he was "in Disney World every day in that parking lot at King Records, just waiting for the next ride."

Founder Syd Nathan was one of the first music executives to push for radio stations

to play music by Black artists. He directed White musicians to play the music of Black artists and have Black musicians play the music of White artists as a way to spread different styles of music across many different audiences.

Nathan's policy of musical integration, as well as his craft of producing the vinyl and album covers himself on Brewster Avenue, are just two unique practices of King Records which helped cement its place in American history.

"Why are we not taking our history and putting it up like the rest of the, you know, Motown... I mean, we've got it here and we're just throwing it away," Collins said.

That is exactly what Xavier intends to fix. King Studios nonprofit is a collaboration between Xavier and the Evanston Community Council, dedicated to preserving the legacy of King Records.

The organization has created traveling exhibits intended to be shown in classrooms, as well as three exhibits which have been displayed at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

Many Xavier students may

not even be aware of how close the former King Records building is to campus. Only a six-minute drive always, the once-lively recording studio now sits almost forgotten. Any passerby would be forgiven for assuming that the former juggernaut of music history was just an average abandoned building. Aside from the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame plaque, the establishment blends in with the typical Evanston property.

Because of its close proximity to Xavier, the non-profit believes students can continue learning the history of King Records.

"The Country and R&B music recorded at King was created by southern migrants who came to Cincinnati and other northern cities in the mid-20th century Great Migration," Christine Anderson, President of the non-profit and former Xavier history professor, said.

"The musical genre they created together shaped the art and culture of the post-war era," she added.

As Evanston has been an African American neighborhood since the 1960s, the importance of a distinguished record label which built itself



Photo courtesy of the Xavier University Library Archives
Pictured above is the original King Records building located on Brewster Avenue, just off Dana Avenue, south of Xavier's campus.

on the principle of integrating many different styles of cultures cannot be understated. King Records is a part of not only Evanston history, but also Cincinnati history, which yearns to be remembered.

With Xavier's involvement in preserving its lega-

cy and the continued interest of Xavier's students in the paramount label's past, the non-profit hopes King Records will not fade with the sands of time and will be remembered as it should: a landmark studio which celebrated diversity as well as high quality music.

French Citizens Protest Retirement Law

Macron's decision to raise retirement ages sparks controversy, talks about work culture

BY GRIFFIN BRAMMER
Staff Writer

French citizens are protesting President Emmanuel Macron's decision to raise the retirement age from 62 to 64. A similar pension bill was set to be voted on in the National Assembly on March 16, but before the vote, Macron invoked a constitutional measure to bypass the bill from Parliament.

Macron noted that the retirement age, one of the lowest in the European Union, was raised to protect the integrity of France's pension system.

"(We cannot) gamble the future of our pensions," Macron-appointed Prime Minister Élisabeth Borne told Parliament.

The decision was made after analysis trends showed an increased elderly population in France, as fewer citizens are working to fund the retirement system.

"The financial risks were too great," Macron stated to his cabinet.

The bill, along with Macron's methodology, has proven unpopular with French citizens. Protests began peacefully, with as many as 800,000 union members attending the march in Paris.

French sociologist Marc Lorient explained the significance of the bill to French work culture.

"Work is very important for French people, but since about 20 or 30 years ago, a



Photos courtesy of commons.wikipedia.org

French President Emmanuel Macron is growing increasingly unpopular after pushing through a pension bill before a parliamentary vote.

lot of jobs have become precarious," Lorient told NPR. "So (now), people say, 'I can't think my work is my only goal in my life.'"

French authorities estimated that a total of one million protesters marched nationwide, while unions gave an estimate upward of 3.5 million.

Last Thursday marked one of the most violent days of the protests with attacks on public buildings. The doors to Bordeaux's City Hall were lit on fire.

"There were many protests, which sometimes lasted until very late last night,

turning violent notably in Paris," Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin stated.

Another recent strike led by French sanitation workers literally added fuel to the flames, as demonstrators began setting the increasingly large piles of trash accumulating around French cities ablaze. Darmanin identified around 900 fires started in Paris alone.

Nearly 500 protesters were arrested for vandalism and other misdemeanors across France last Thursday. Riots began in cities including Paris after police used tear gas and pressurized water cannons

to disperse crowds. An estimated 441 policemen were injured.

"There are troublemakers, often extreme left, who want to take down the state and kill police and ultimately take over the institutions," Darmanin said regarding the French protesters.

The protests have spurred several votes of no confidence in the National Assembly from opposing parties. As of yet, none have received the required amount of votes, meaning both Borne and Macron will remain in power.

President Macron had previously stated in a TV inter-

view that he disagreed with the push to drive himself and Borne out of office.

"(My one regret) is that I have not succeeded in convincing people of the necessity of this reform," he said.

Due to the increasingly violent nature of the protests, a recently-planned visit from King Charles of England was postponed this past Friday.

"The king and the queen consort's state visit to France has been postponed. Their majesties greatly look forward to the opportunity to visit France as soon as dates can be found," a Buckingham Palace statement read.

Shooter Kills Six Victims In Nashville Elementary School

BY MOLLY HULLIGAN
Head Copy Editor

Three children and three adults were killed in a shooting at a private Christian elementary school in Nashville on Monday. The shooter was killed by police while still inside the school.

The three student victims, all nine years old, have been identified as Evelyn Dieckhaus, Hallie Scruggs and William Kinney. The three adults were Cynthia Peak, a 61-year-old substitute teacher; Mike Hill, a 61-year-old custodian at the school and Dr. Katherine Koonce, a 60-year-old school administrator.

The shooter, 28-year-old Audrey E. Hale, was a former student at the elementary school. Hale did not target specific victims, but she did target the school intentionally, according to police spokesperson Don Aaron.

Authorities received the first call of an active shooter at 10:13 a.m. local time and were on the scene minutes later. Hale was shot and killed

by Officers Rex Engelbert and Michael Collazo 14 minutes after the first 911 call.

Hale, who had been receiving treatment for an emotional disorder, legally purchased the three firearms used in Monday's shooting, Metropolitan Nashville Police Chief John Drake said.

In response to the shooting, President Joe Biden pleaded with Congress to reinstate the assault weapons ban he helped pass in 1994 that lapsed in 2004.

"I have gone the full extent of my executive authority to do, on my own, anything about guns," Biden said. "I can't do anything except plead with the Congress to act reasonably."

"How many more children have to be murdered before Republicans in Congress will step up and act to pass the assault weapons ban?" White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre asked.

According to the Gun Violence Archive, the U.S. has had 130 mass shootings in 2023 so far.



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

The assailant in Monday's school shooting in Nashville was killed in an altercation with police.

Elet Hall is Named After an Enslaver

In 2016, Dr. C. Walker Gollar presented research that proved that Xavier's newest residence hall, Bishop Edward Fenwick Hall, was named after a man who had owned and sold slaves. In 2023, we find ourselves back in the same place.

Dr. Gollar is a professor of Church History at Xavier who specializes in American Catholicism and Black Theology. He brought to our attention that Elet Hall, Xavier's oldest residence hall on campus, now used as the psychology department building, is named after slave owner Father John A. Elet. Elet was the first president of the institution that would become Xavier University after it was

taken by the Society of Jesus from Bishop Fenwick.

It is known for certain that Elet owned slaves while he was president of St. Louis University, a fellow Jesuit institution. Dr. Gollar's research shows that there is documentation that Elet treated his slaves not as people but as property. Records show that he considered selling them to pay off bills.

I wonder if Xavier thought that just because Elet Hall is across Victory Parkway that no one would ever find out, that no one would care or that it wasn't worth their time to make the change. Frankly, the lack of action has us questioning Xavier's commitment to racial justice and anti-racism. Is it surface-level, merely to please students and faculty of color? Is it like how the outside of Justice Hall is renamed but signs on the inside of the building still read "Fenwick Hall?" If Xavier truly cared about racial justice and advocating for social progress on campus, Fenwick Hall's renaming would have triggered an investigation into the name of every building on campus. And maybe they would have

actually changed the signs that read "Fenwick Hall." Just a thought.

The discovery of the actions of Elet Hall's namesake is gross but in no way surprising because the Jesuits were not non-actors in history. They owned slaves, often participated in cultural suppression and have a history that is tied to colonialism. My point is, if possible, maybe we can skip the surprised gasps, copy-paste email responses and pearl-clutching. If this news about Elet Hall has truly surprised you, maybe it is time for you to wake up.

Especially for many people of color on campus, this isn't the first nor last nor least expected failure of Xavier to truly hold itself accountable — to actually adhere to the Jesuit values it praises. It isn't enough to provide scholarships or have organizations created for people of color. These aren't distractions from the fact that buildings like Elet still have the name of a slave owner when Xavier seemed to care so much a year ago about Justice Hall's renaming. Justice Hall not only sounds like

a juvenile delinquent center but serves as what I see as a pat on the back for tackling racial injustice, now that I know of Elet's history and blatant overlook.

Naming a building after a person exalts them to prominence and importance. Buildings on campus should be named after people who have a history or legacy that aligns with the Jesuit values Xavier promotes with such passion. By owning slaves, Elet demonstrates racist views which did not view Black people to be fully human; these are dehumanizing beliefs which have no basis in Ignatian principles. Elet's lifestyle and actions do not align with the values Xavier encourages us to take seriously and consider every day. He should not remain the namesake for Elet Hall.

Through the namesake of Elet Hall, Xavier has revealed an inattention to the importance of committing to action, equality, advocacy and genuinely supporting the whole student body. It's already embarrassing how poorly responses to hate crimes and

safety concerns on campus are handled. Elet is another addition to the list of shortcomings Xavier will, unfortunately, probably ignore until we sign a hundred more petitions, hold another hundred protests and swamp the president with a hundred more emails.

More information about Elet is likely to come to light soon as Dr. Gollar continues his research. In light of what is already known, I hope that Xavier leadership will take swift action to condemn the name of Elet Hall and will commit to choosing a new one. If not because they genuinely want to support people of color on campus, then at the very least for improving the university's image.



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SVB and Them Had It Coming

The March 10 collapse of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) was the second largest single bank collapse in US financial history and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) should have just let it ride out instead of insuring all depositors' investments.

The FDIC insures a maximum of \$250,000 per account in the case that your bank collapses. However, unlike in 2008, when the federal government decided to use taxpayer money to bail out the financial institutions themselves, this time they decided to just move some money around that somehow wasn't taxpayer funded and bailed out the depositors themselves.

This was a spit in the face to everyone with student debt or healthcare debt in the country. The entire time the \$10,000-\$20,000 Pell Grant loan forgiveness discourse was happening, all its critics

said, "Where will the money come from?"

Well, the money for this bailout is coming from the deposit insurance fund, which is how they guarantee your \$250,000, except this time they are going to bailout every cent past \$250,000 that venture capitalists that banked with SVB deposited. Which is ridiculous. Being a venture capitalist is inherently risky; you are throwing money at startups that you hope will one day make money. These aren't 17 and 18-year-olds signing for federal loans so they can go to college. These are middle-aged rich people that chose the wrong horse at the Silicon Valley race track. They know how the game is played; they don't deserve a single cent past that \$250,000.

The argument in favor of the bailout is that if they let SVB fail, then it could cause a domino effect and you could

see 2008 levels of bank closures. This wouldn't matter that much for the average American family. The median American household has only around \$4500 of savings in their bank. So if mass bank closures do happen, the FDIC would pay out to every individual or family that has an account up to that \$250,000 max. What it would affect would be businesses that have money in a potentially collapsed bank.

The other "issue" with a potential mass bank collapse would be the businesses that bank with them. Much like the people that bank with SVB and other similar investment style regional banks. The businesses that would go bankrupt because of a bank closure aren't smart for putting all their money in a singular account like Airbnb. If your company is only held up because banks and other in-

vestors keep pumping you full of money, then you aren't a business that should survive. I wouldn't lose sleep if all these tech startups went bankrupt. Tech companies aren't somehow good just because they virtue signal more than oil and gas or financial companies. Tech companies, especially new media startups, monetize your attention and your person rather than having products of their own. This is why Facebook, Youtube, TikTok, Twitter and Instagram are so addictive. They are preying upon their own user base. Let them lose everything but their \$250,000.

Also, the people that would lose their jobs from this industry wide bank collapse are extremely well-off already since they would all be Silicon Valley or Seattle tech workers that make more than six-figure salaries. They have enough money to be able to

be solvent for a few months while finding another job.

Instead of bailing out the billionaire investor class and predatory tech startups, the U.S. government could have let the people that made bad financial decisions by "informed gambling" and used that money for bailing out students, those in medical debt or reinvesting in communities that have been left behind. But I guess that wouldn't keep the S&P 500 line going up. How dare I dream for a government not run by corporate oligarchs and their stooges.



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Divinity, Duty, Death and Deters

The original version of this opinion contains hyperlinks citing sources where this version's text is blue. Please visit us at xaviernewswire.com to view these links.

I'm not here to cancel Joe Deters.

A university should be a place of open and free inquiry. We can learn from Mr. Deters, and I would hope that he could learn from being in dialogue with our campus community as well. But it's one thing to invite Mr. Deters to campus for civic engagement; it's another to bestow on him the honor of serving as Xavier's inaugural "Justice in Residence."

As has been documented in the *NewsWire* and several op-eds in the *Enquirer*, this appointment raises a number of questions about whether and how Mr. Deters' track record aligns with our Catholic, Jesuit identity. In light of how Mr. Deters has minimized, ignored or rejected racial bias in the criminal justice system (as you can [read here](#)), I am troubled by the kind of message this sends to our students, staff and faculty of color in particular — especially when the university has been inattentive or slow to respond to BIPOC persons who may feel invisible or insignificant, unwelcome or unsafe on our campus.

How are we to make sense of naming Deters inaugural

"Justice in Residence" after he sent more people to death row than any other prosecutor in Ohio, even as we learn about [wrongful convictions](#) and wait for [necessary reforms](#) to fix what the American Bar Association described in 1997 as a "[seriously flawed](#)" system? When Pope Francis revised the Catechism of the Catholic Church to state that the death penalty is "inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person, and (the church) works with determination for its abolition worldwide," (§ [2267](#)) Mr. Deters said, "[The pope is wrong.](#)" But this isn't just a matter of opinion, like debating the best place to get chili in Cincinnati. This is about what it means to be human as people created in the "image and likeness" of God and the kind of society we're building.

Mr. Deters has called defendants "[soulless and unsalvageable.](#)" For him, capital punishment is [justice](#). This stands in stark contrast to what we learn from [Fr. Greg Boyle, SJ](#) (assigned to many students in THEO 111). For nearly 40 years, Fr. Boyle has ministered to and shared life with current and former gang members in East L.A. He counters, "There are no monsters, villains, or bad guy ... There are only folks who carry unspeakable pain. There are among us the profoundly traumatized who deal in the currency of damage. And

there are those whose minds are ill, whose sickness chases them every day. But there are no bad guys. Jesus seems to suggest that there are no exceptions to this. Yet it's hard for us to believe him." Boyle insists that one of the "signature marks of our God is the lifting of shame" while we, too, often resort to moral outrage. But moral outrage "only divides and separates what God wants for us, which is to be united in kinship. Moral outrage doesn't lead us to solutions — it keeps us from them. It keeps us from moving forward toward a fuller, more compassionate response to members of our community who belong to us, no matter what they've done. And this is the most difficult part for us to grasp: What could be more terrifying than actually believing that such folks belong to us?"

Boyle is describing a Catholic (and Jesuit) vision of justice. Not vengeance, but fidelity. Not blame and shame, but compassion and kinship. Not lock them up and throw away the key (or death sentence by [firing squad](#)), but healing wounds, restoring agency and preventing the social problems that generate the futility and desperation that often lead people to resort to criminal acts. This vision of justice is why Pope Francis called for the abolition of the death penalty, echoing what [Pope John Paul II wrote in 1995](#) and [Pope Benedict XVI as-](#)

[serted in 2011](#), reflecting the very foundation of the Christian moral life: Human dignity is innate, which means that it cannot be earned or lost. No one is soulless or unsalvageable. As Sister Helen Prejean puts it, "We are more than the worst thing we have ever done." She also observes, "The death penalty is fundamentally a poor person's issue. I have never met a single person with money or resources on death row. Capital punishment means 'those without the capital get the punishment.'"

The problem is not that Mr. Deters disagrees with the current or previous pope. The problem is his support for an [evil system](#), one that preys on poor people and people of color. Such a criminal justice system exemplifies what Pope Francis laments as a "[throw-away culture](#)" that degrades and discards human beings, driving us further from unity, equality and freedom.

Earlier this month, I accompanied a group of students to the [UCA](#), the Jesuit university of El Salvador, where we prayed in a garden where six Jesuit priests were murdered by U.S.-trained soldiers in November 1989. One of these priests was the president of the UCA, Fr. Ignacio Ellacuría, who was killed because he vocally defended the truth, human dignity and human rights. In his [commencement address at Santa Clara](#), he described a Christian university as a "social force"

charged with transforming and enlightening society, doing "everything possible so that liberty is victorious over oppression, justice over injustice, love over hate," for without this kind of "overall commitment, we would not be a university, and even less so would we be a Catholic university." These are words Dr. Hanyecz quoted in her [2021 Inaugural Address](#), adding, "So, too, must Xavier discern its role in loving and lifting those who we serve."

Who is served by Justice Deters' appointment — and who are the people whose needs continue to be unmet? What can we learn from those the criminal justice system has failed to serve? How can our university be a social force for justice that honors the infinite worth of each individual and creates the conditions for all to flourish in solidarity and kinship? Are we deciding, speaking and acting — individually, interpersonally and institutionally — in ways that make it easier to recognize that we belong to each other?



Dr. Marcus Mescher is associate professor of Christian ethics in the Theology Department. He specializes in Catholic social teaching and moral

BRAVE: Stop Hypersexualizing Male Celebrities

The Internet has always been a lawless terrain, filled with ideas and images that many people would have to see to believe. In the Tumblr years, you could visit A03 or Wattpad and find a fanfiction about any hot male celebrity filling terrible character arcs while racking in tens of thousands of reads. Plenty of these stories had a plethora of scenes that we would now refer to as "spicy."

But now, this spiciness that used to have to be sought out is readily available, and the male celebrities being written about and hypersexualized on the page can see these depictions of themselves whenever they log onto social media.

The main component in the definition of a sexual fantasy is the phrase "mental image." BuzzFeed's ever-popular "Thirst Tweets" video series is a prime example of how these fantasies are trickling out of people's brains at an alarming rate and being uploaded to social media sites with seemingly no concern for their digital footprints.

Now, I'm not saying these videos only feature men, because they don't. But the most watched ones feature the hottest male celebrities, especially ones who are having their

"renaissance."

I didn't even know certain words existed until I saw them over and over again in the tweets featured in these videos.

Sure, everyone has the freedom to post what they'd like on Instagram, as long as it doesn't violate community guidelines. The argument I'm making isn't against posting anything that comes to mind on the internet. I'm just sitting here wondering when people decided that they wanted the male celebrities starring in their sexual fantasies to be aware of that.

One of the earliest instances of this unwanted awareness that I can remember is when the Harry Styles fanfiction series *After* by Anna Todd racked in more than one billion reads on Wattpad. They featured a heavily tatted, emotionally damaged Styles, with other One Direction members being described similarly.

The main draw of this series? The copious amount of sex scenes between Styles and the main character, Tessa. Not only were those stories advertised every time you entered the app, but they were also eventually published by Gallery Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster.

The fourth movie in the series was just released September 2022, with the fifth one in talks to premiere late this year.

The main change from the fanfictions to the published stories was the name of Harry Styles to Hardin Scott. These books still include a blurb describing the story's origin, even going as far as to refer to Anna Todd's Wattpad screen name, Imaginator1D.

The *After* debacle is one of the more extreme examples and brings up more concerns than just building a career off of a male celebrity that was 19 when the 24-year-old author began writing these smutty scenes.

Older actors have these creepy experiences, too. Nowadays, Pedro Pascal is steadily climbing the ladder to reach "heartthrob" status as he pushes 50.

This newfound fame has found Pascal joking about being the Internet's "daddy" and has also led him to awkward red-carpet encounters. A few weeks ago, while on the red carpet for the premiere of the newest season of *The Mandalorian*, an interviewer asked Pascal if he would read aloud thirst tweets about himself. After glancing over some of

the options, he looked up and simply said, "No." He then went on to shake his head and call some of his fans "dirty," leaving many people to comment on how weird it was for the interviewer to put him on the spot like that. It's very obvious that Pascal happened upon some sexual fantasies about himself in those thirst tweets and didn't want to read them off for more people to enjoy or add to their own catalogs.

Online interactions like the ones I've brought up before have led other celebrities and fans to feel comfortable treating male celebrities inappropriately in real-life because of the narratives surrounding them online. I could have mentioned so many other examples of male celebrities who have been sexualized online and/or groped in real-life. The main issue here is seeing how online narratives can play out in real life, when a lot of the time, certain posts and fantasies are meant to either stay online or in someone's head.

Now, I am in no way comparing male celebrities' experiences to those of female celebrities. The hypersexualization and objectification of female celebrities has been

normalized for eons, and the inappropriate interactions they've had weren't sparked by online trends or thirst tweets. They were almost automated, with many violating and "line-crossing" incidents happening like clockwork.

I am simply bringing up a point about how casual attitudes about sexual posts and comments about male celebrities, and violating physical interactions, haven't been talked about as much because they seem to be normalized. Not feeling like you have a voice to speak against things like this can be harmful in and of itself, and I think starting this conversation is a way of preventing that silence from causing more violence.



Emilie Ivy writes for the BRAVE Peer Educator Column for *NewsWire*. She is a junior communications and public relations double major from Woodbridge, Virginia.

XU Baseball Defeats No. 24 West Virginia

Xavier baseball ended the week on a good note, beating their first ranked opponent

BY PAT GAINOR
Staff Writer

Despite an ugly loss at home and losing three straight games this week, Xavier baseball managed to steal a game against No. 24 West Virginia for its first ranked win of the season.

After a sweep against the Wofford Terriers, Xavier returned to Hayden Field on Wednesday to take on the rival Cincinnati Bearcats in the second home game of the season.

The Musketeers entered the game shorthanded in pitching after having to go deep in their bullpen against the Terriers last weekend. That showed against the Bearcats as Xavier surrendered 13 runs in the first two innings, eight of which came off grand slams. Despite a home run from senior first baseman Tyler DeMartino, Cincinnati would take full control of the game, winning 19-6.

The 19 runs surrendered were the most given up by Xavier since 2021, when they gave up 22 against Cincinnati at Hayden Field.

Junior pitcher Connor Bailey was taken out of the game after facing five batters with no outs.

On Friday, Xavier trav-



Photo courtesy of goxavier.com

The Musketeers struggled against arch rival University of Cincinnati, losing by a final score of 6-19. Despite also dropping two games to West Virginia, Xavier won the final game 8-3 to split the series 1-2.

eled to Morgantown to take on the No. 24 West Virginia Mountaineers, their third series against a ranked opponent this season.

The series opener was a close one, as Xavier responded to every run scored by WVU with a score of their own. The Mountaineers entered the top of the eighth

inning with a 4-3 lead, but a single by senior infielder Matt McCormick brought in graduate student infielder Jack Housinger from first to tie the game up at 4-4.

Unfortunately, West Virginia rallied in the ninth, and sophomore infielder JJ Wetherholt, the leading hitter in the Big 12, notched

the walk-off hit to give the Mountaineers a 5-4 victory. Relief pitcher sophomore Justin Loer (2-2) would be assessed the loss.

Game Two was a battle between aces as Xavier's graduate student pitcher Brant Alazaus (2-3) and West Virginia's Blaine Trexel (5-1) duked it out.

Both pitchers held their respective opponents to under two runs for most of the game, but a go-ahead single in the bottom of the seventh knocked Alazaus out of the game, and the Mountaineers put the game away in the eighth as they rolled to a 7-2 victory.

Trying to end their three-game skid, Xavier needed a huge offensive rally in the series finale — and that's exactly what they got from second baseman senior Jared Cushing. Cushing, who homered in Game One, crushed a grand slam in the second and a solo shot in the eighth as he tallied a career-high five RBIs.

Adding in a two-run shot by graduate student outfielder Andrew Walker and a sacrifice bunt by junior catcher Matthew DePrey, Xavier cruised to their first ranked win of the season as they took the 8-3 victory.

Xavier is now 1-7 against nationally ranked opponents this season, having lost to No. 20 Oregon and No. 12 Louisville earlier this year.

The Musketeers finish off their five-game road trip this week as they take on the Ohio State Buckeyes (12-10) and the Wright State Raiders (13-10) before returning home to face Northern Illinois (5-17) in the non-conference series finale. Big East conference play begins April 6.

Student Spotlight: Behind The Scenes Of The Sweet 16

Two Xavier students offer a bittersweet reflection on their final experience as superfans

BY ADDISON BURKE
Staff Writer

Two Xavier students have been along for the ride with the men's basketball team from the underwhelming record their first year to the team's NCAA tournament run their senior year.

Seniors Kenny Schneider and Hank Barron have been at the frontlines of Xavier basketball games for the past four years, and both have gained a different perspective of the games because of their different involvement on campus.

Schneider has savored his experience being an X-treme Fan, and Barron enjoyed his time as Xavier mascot D'Artagnan. Both described having had the adventure of a lifetime being a part of sold out games in Cintas, having the ability to travel with the team to New York City for the Big East tournament, seeing an NIT championship and watching the team play in the NCAA tournament.

Kenny Schneider

Schneider has been an X-treme Fan his entire time at Xavier. His involvement began his first year after a Manresa leader recommend-

ed to him that he join. Schneider joined the X-treme Fans' board of directors during his first year, which prompted his most memorable times as a Xavier student.

Schneider became the vice president of the events team, and transitioned into the role of president of X-treme Fans his senior year.

Being a part of the group has given him "unforgettable experiences," Schneider, added, "such as traveling to the Big East tournament in New York City and taking the lead on the design and charity aspects of the annual X shirt."

He mentioned that this year has been extremely special to him with the team playing in the NCAA tournament for the first time in his four years here.

Seeing Xavier's name pop on the screen during Selection Sunday meant the world to him.

"I was fortunate enough to be able to be in Kansas City for the game and cheer on our team. While the game didn't go our way, being able to watch Xavier play in the Sweet 16 round of the NCAA tournament was a dream come true for me, four years in the making, and I am truly grateful for that," Schneider concluded.

Hank Barron

Some students might say that they have never seen Barron at Xavier games, but they would be mistaken. Barron is one of several students serving as a mascot in the D'Artagnan costume.

Barron became D'Artagnan his first year, and he has loved it ever since. He described his time as one of Xavier's mascots as a roller-coaster ride, with COVID-19 cutting off his first year early, not being able to participate sophomore year and the team having notorious late-season downfalls his first three years.

While Barron mentioned there were times in which the team leadership made him not enjoy the games, he had many memorable experiences, including beating Ohio State last year along with winning the NIT.

Barron was especially excited for this year due to Head Coach Sean Miller's return to Xavier. He felt sure that Miller's arrival meant good things for the season and would perhaps give him the chance to attend the NCAA Tournament as D'Artagnan.

"I have been extremely blessed these last two years and am proud that I can point at the Sweet 16 banner for this year and the NIT banner



Photo courtesy of goxavier.com

Hank Barron is one of several Xavier students who serves as a mascot for basketball games in the D'Artagnan costume.

in 2022 and say to my future children I was a part of those runs," Barron said.

Both Schneider and Barron mentioned that, despite the fact that they are gradu-

ating from Xavier this semester, they are still excited for the path the team is on. They can't wait to keep cheering the team on, even after their graduation.

And They All Went Marching Home: Xavier Falls to Texas

The Musketeers fought hard during their tournament run, finally losing in the Sweet 16

BY CHARLIE GSTALDER
Opinions Editor

Xavier men's basketball's season ended early Saturday morning with an 83-71 loss to Texas.

Right away, things weren't going the Muskies' way, literally — the team lost the jump ball before seeing Texas go on a 6-0 run over the first 90 seconds. Graduate student forward Jack Nunge got the lid off the basket for Xavier with a tipped-in two, only for the team to go scoreless over their next few possessions.

Another few moments of clarity followed at the charity stripe, with freshman guard Desmond Claude splitting a pair of free throws and Boum sinking both. After that, the Muskies were banished back to their frozen wasteland, missing their next eight shots.

The pattern continued for the rest of the half with excellent offensive execution by the Longhorns, only occasionally disturbed by a Xavier basket. The Muskies averaged an agonizing two minutes be-

tween scores for the remainder of the first half.

As if twisting their horns in our wounds, Texas closed the half with a ridiculous, half court, buzzer-beating heave by forward Timmy Allen.

I wish I could write that the second half was better for Xavier or that Dana Gardens didn't have to shut down their tent, but the March showers were unrelenting and occupancy requirements and the Longhorns had their day.

Xavier was never able to bring the lead to single digits. Texas maintained the pressure all the way to the final buzzer, where their players celebrated and promptly called for the full time hiring of Assistant Head Coach Rodney Terry, who took the reins mid-season after former Head Coach Chris Beard was fired over domestic violence allegations. At the time of writing, Terry signed a five year deal to return to the longhorns.

Despite the loss, the 2022-23 season can be considered an overwhelming success for



Photo courtesy of goxavier.com

Senior guard Adam Kunkel performed well against Texas, nailing several threes while he attempted to lead the Musketeers to a comeback win. Xavier will now look to reboot for the 2023-24 season.

the Muskies, who defied expectations in the first year of Head Coach Sean Miller's second stint at the helm.

The team finished with a 27-10 record, with an appearance in the Big East Finals, a return to the Big Dance as a three seed and two tourna-

ment wins to cement their successes.

The seniors deserve a lot of respect and credit for the team's achievements. In particular, Boum, whose Point God-ding as a sixth year transfer senior will likely prove to be a model for a new style of Miller offense; Zack Freemantle, who poured in buckets and corralled boards before a foot injury ended his season and Jack Nunge, the paint-patrolling, seven-foot sniper that anchored the team night after night.

There's some talk that Colby Jones may attempt to go pro and test his chances in the draft this June, but without any slight toward Jones' ability, I think it would be more prudent for him to return for another year of eligibility.

Some scouts have Jones slotted as a mid-second round or even late first round selection. The 6'6 guard's athleticism, eye for scoring and

ability to corral rebound and dish dimes would certainly be a boon to an NBA team, but I think he can soar even higher.

With another year at Xavier under Miller's increasingly guard centric offense, Jones will have ample opportunities to be a beast in the Big East and maybe even help Xavier dance deeper next March. And with scouts now on notice, we can expect Jones to climb ever higher up draft boards.

While all of the seniors will surely be missed, there's plenty to look forward to as Miller prepares to welcome in his first full recruiting class for the 2023-24 season. Keep an eye out for four-star recruit Trey Green, who may prove to be Xavier's next prolific point guard, as well as Dailyn Swain and Reid Ducharme as they graduate high school and get ready to hit the hardwood at Cintas Center in the fall.



Photo courtesy of goxavier.com



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Cincy Shakes Previews New Season

BY ETHAN NICHOLS
World News Editor

As Cincinnati Shakespeare Company (CSC) prepares to present its 30th anniversary season, it has unveiled its full season lineup. Included in the lineup is an array ranging from three Shakespearean classics, two world premieres and more.

"The 2023-2024 season promises to bring people a range of emotions we can all identify with — the frenzy of falling in love, betrayal's gut-punch or the internal struggle of faith," CSC Communications and Engagement Manager Kyrie Owen explained.

"Audiences will see their stories represented on stage, like complex familial relationships or silly adventures with friends. They'll also be introduced to worlds they may not have experienced, like a Hollywood writers' room or a disastrous opening night," Owen said.

"Audiences can also expect experimentation and new twists on the classics, like a winter whimsical take on *A Midsummer Night's Dream*," she added.

To start off the season, the



CSC will present a special production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde. Running Aug. 4-20, CSC dubs the play "a trivial comedy for serious people."

Next up is *Gaslight* by Steven Dietz, a world premiere production running from Sept. 8-24. CSC's preview of this Victorian gothic thriller promotes that this play will stand out for any horror, true crime or mystery fans.

From Oct. 13-28, CSC will present the comedic *Wrecking Ball* by Zina Camblin. This world premiere centers around a Hollywood screenwriters' room and aims to "de-

molish the pristine facade of Hollywood."

Reviving one of Shakespeare's greatest hits, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will run from Nov. 10 to Dec. 2. Starring Angelique Archer as Puck, the play aims to achieve the perfect mix of young love, magical forest fairies, potions and, in what will be no surprise to Shakespeare fans, a donkey head.

For the holiday season, CSC will again present *Every Christmas Story Ever Told*. An annual tradition, this comedic special comes with a content advisory: "Not recommended for any theatergoer who



Photos courtesy of Cincinnati Shakespeare Company

still believes in Santa." *Every Christmas Story Ever Told* will run Dec. 7-30.

The new year will kick off with an American classic: *The Amen Corner* by James Baldwin. Grappling with issues of race, poverty and the role of the church in Black America, *The Amen Corner* will run from Jan. 26 to Feb. 11, 2024.

CSC can commemorate the Ides of March with the playhouse's production of *Julius Caesar* from March 1-23, 2024. Set in a crime-riddled Rome, the play shows the cutthroat nature of Roman politics as the play's namesake becomes a target for assassination.

Next in line is *Much Ado About Nothing*, another Shakespeare classic, which runs from April 12 to May 5, 2024. An instant fan favorite, this Elizabethan rom-com will tantalize audiences with witty report and an enemies-to-lovers storyline.

To wrap up the season, we get *The Play That Goes Wrong* by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer and Henry Shields. The play focuses on a local community theater trying to put on a play (in which everything seems to go wrong) and will run from May 24 to June 26, 2024.

Finally, no season at CSC would be complete without the free Shakespeare in the Park. Presented at various parks around Cincinnati and Hamilton County, the playhouse will present *The Comedy of Errors*. Running July 14 to Sept. 3, 2024, each show is free and open to the public — no ticket required.

"We could say, 'there's something for everyone,' but in reality, every show is for all — people will leave either seeing themselves on stage or empathizing with those with different life experiences," Owen concluded.

Senior Art Thesis Recreates Teen Memories

BY JOSEPH NICHOLS
Staff Writer

Senior art major Maria Hart has both dazzled and despaired viewers with her senior thesis, "Opening the Well." Hart describes the exhibition, hosted in A.B. Cohen Center, as a reckoning with her own mental health in her youth and adolescence.

Hart based her thesis on a two-line poem that she wrote in her poetry class last year: "I cower and fold in on myself, / Living at the bottom of my eggshell-painted well."

This poem served as a

groundwork for her to communicate her experience to others of being trapped in her own habits.

"The egg-shell painted well referred to my room where I spent a lot of time in my childhood, and even now, alone. I found that in my messy bedroom, all of the mess personified me, I thought. All of my thoughts reflected off those four walls created a tunnel of self-hatred," she said.

Hart's senior thesis recreates her childhood room. Along the left wall, a bed is hidden underneath a mountain of trash bags and dirty

laundry. Nearby, a figurine of the artist hangs off the bed. The room also displays other objects from her adolescence, including a makeup station and a dresser overflowing with clothes.

Hart noted that she intended for people to share a portrayal of her own mental health by engaging with the piece.

"I wanted to have people step into my well of self-hatred and break the cycle of negative self-thought," she said.

Adjacent to her mock room, Hart displays a life-sized self portrait of herself sitting regally, adorned with dirty laundry.

"In the process of purging the feeling of self-hatred and pain through art-making, I started to see a meaning and beauty in the mess, rather than shame," the artist explained.

The final element of Hart's thesis consists of a stained glass self portrait, displaying a tear-stricken Hart gazing into a broken mirror. Surrounding this piece are movie and music posters from the artist's childhood: 2000s-era staples including *The Princess Diaries*, *Chueless* and Taylor Swift's eponymous debut album.

"I pulled posters from things I grew up with since I didn't have many friends, and I needed to fill my time, so I watched a lot of movies," Hart said.

On each of these posters,



A&E SINGLES

BY KYRA HUDSON
Staff Writer

- Selena Gomez and Zayn Malik were reportedly seen together, which sparked romantic rumors (March 24).
- Selena Gomez stood up for Hailey Bieber via social media amid cyberbullying (March 24).
- Lady Gaga was seen filming *Joker 2* in New York (March 25).
- Harry Styles and Emily Ratajkowski were spotted together in Tokyo, also provoking possible romance questions (March 26).

silver glitter engulfs the faces of the figures, masking the faces the posters would typically portray.

"I really only wanted my face to be in the show, because I needed people to see and feel that isolation in the mess. I chose the silver glitter specifically as I wanted there to be a reflective aspect to it, and for

viewers to look into the posters, see themselves, and imagine their own lives if they were surrounded in this," Hart explained.

"Opening the Well" will remain at Cohen Art Gallery on campus until April 14. The gallery is open from Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or by appointment.

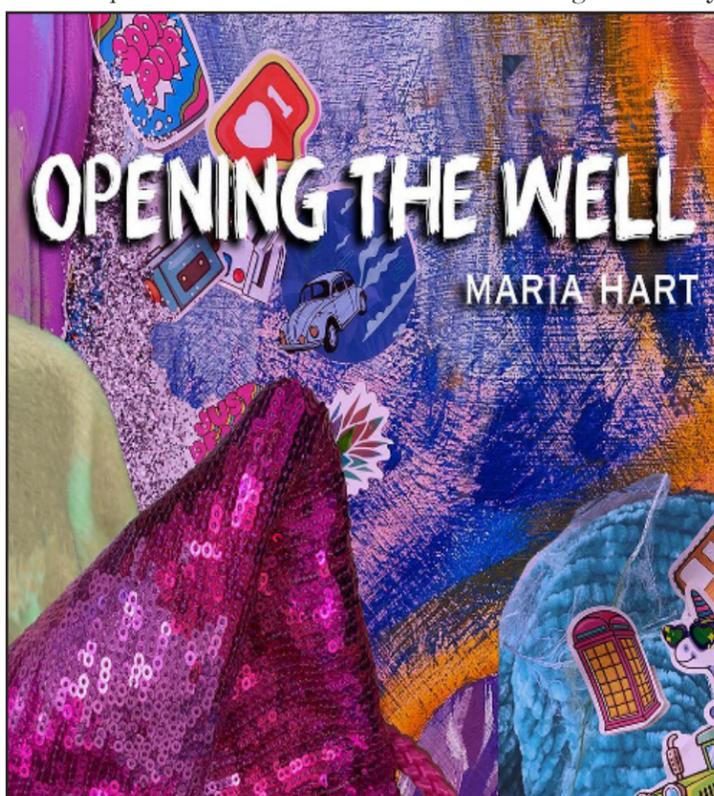


Photo courtesy of @marhar56 (Maria Hart) via Instagram

Senior art major Maria Hart aims to invite viewers to engage with mental health difficulties with her thesis.

Your Cincinnati Reds Who Haven't Won a World Series Since 1990

BY LUCY KRAMER, STAFF WRITER

March 30 is the Cincinnati Reds' Opening Day, and absolutely no one is lining up around the block to get tickets. At this point, I would not be surprised if the stands are emptier than they were during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a Reds fan myself, it's not that I don't want to support my team. The problem is that the Reds have not given their fans anything to root for since the 1990s. Historically, Cincinnati has been full of bad professional sports teams, at least in the 21st century. (Despite this, in my experience, Cincinnati fans are loyal to their teams through and through.) Seriously, the last time Cincinnati's MLB team and NFL team were both good at the same time was 1991. Since then, it has just been one big disappointment after another. Even the American Girl Doll Kit Kittredge stopped being a Reds fan in 2007. Coincidentally, this was the same year Joey Votto, the oldest current player on the Reds roster, joined the team.

If you aren't from Cincinnati or familiar with its incredibly mid-even-for-the-Midwest culture, you may be asking yourself: Why now? Haven't the Reds been bad for almost 30 years? What makes this year different from any other? My answer to that is simple. It is because of one man, and that man is none other than Joe Burrow. Now, I know Burrow is the quarterback of the Cincinnati Bengals and has absolutely nothing to do with baseball, but hear me out. Since getting drafted as the number one overall pick in 2020, Burrow has given Cincinnati something to root for. He turned not only the NFL team into the loveable underdog, but the entire city. After decades, the city could see victory at the end of the long, dark, miserable tunnel of despair. It was a driving hunger that some fans had never experienced in their lifetime.

Because of Burrow, Cincinnati now knows the feeling of being better than average, and it isn't ready to go back. This insatiable hunger can only be satisfied by being the best, and Reds owner Phil Castellini doesn't seem to see that. He thinks taunting fans and adding geotta to the concession stands will fix 30 years of problems.

At this point, watching the Reds crash and burn season after season it is starting to feel like the plot of the 1989 movie *Major League*, where the owner is purposely ruining the team and its fan base so that she can sell it and move somewhere warmer than Ohio. The only difference between real life and the movie is that the Reds are in Cincinnati, not Cleveland, and owner Phil Castellini is definitely not as attractive as Margaret Whitton. Nevertheless, if the Reds

Aries: Akil Baddoo of the Detroit Tigers is your soulmate. He is a fine, fine man.

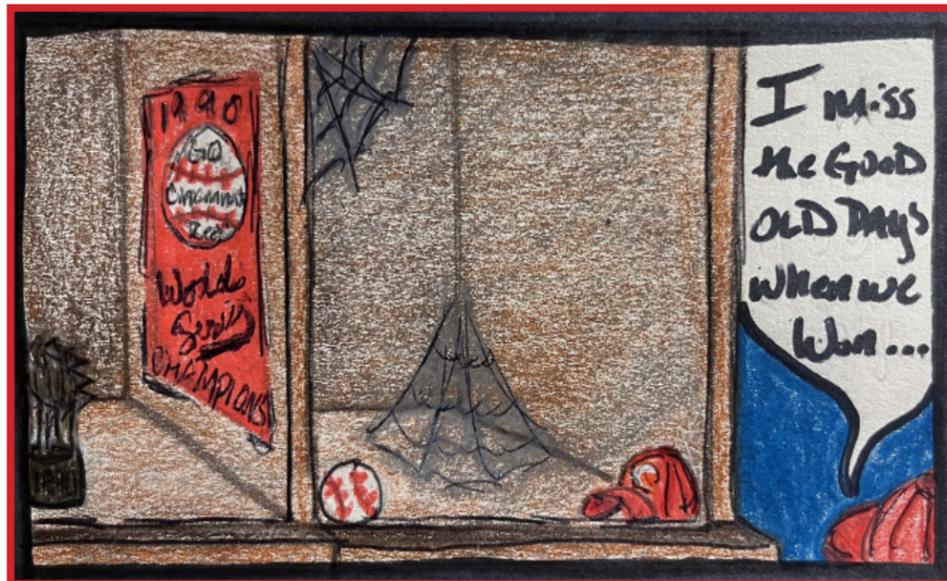
Taurus: Francisco Lindor of the New York Mets is your soulmate. He is literally nicknamed "Mr. Smile."

Gemini: Another hot man from the Detroit Tigers: Javier Báez. You're welcome.

Cancer: Giancarlo Stanton of the New York Yankees is very easy on the eyes.

Leo: Gavin Lux of the Los Angeles Dodgers is so bad in an underwear model font.

Virgo: Sandy Alcántara of the Miami Marlins is very attractive in a Ricky Martin way.



COMIC BY BRIANA DUNN



Libra: Anthony Rizzo of the Chicago Cubs is not the cutest ever, but his last name has "rizz" in it, so he had to make the list.

Scorpio: Brandon Crawford of the San Francisco Giants should win an award for MVD: Most Valuable DILF.

Sagittarius: Noelvi Marte of the Cincinnati Reds is a cutie pie. He's 21 AND lives in Cincinnati, so we can totally make this happen for you.

Capricorn: Trent Grisham of the San Diego Padres is your soulmate. And he's only 26, so it's a little more feasible.

Aquarius: Shohei Otani of the Los Angeles Angels is obscenely attractive. He is your soulmate. AND he is 6'4!

Pisces: Jonathan India of the Cincinnati Reds is another cutie, and he's local!