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XU Basketball Bursts Into Sweet 16

Head Coach Sean Miller leads the team to victory against Pitt, takes on Texas



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Dr. Kristen Renzi receives the Fortin Award for excellence in the humanities.



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Xavier advances to the Sweet 16 for the first time in five years, again under Sean Miller.



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Spring has sprung, and *Newswire* fashionistas are reviewing the season's hottest looks.



Renzi Recognized for Scholarly Success

Dr. Kristen L. Renzi wins this year's Fortin Award for Outstanding Teaching

BY ETHAN NICHOLS
World News Editor

This year's recipient of the Roger A. Fortin Award for Outstanding Teaching and Scholarship, Dr. Kristen L. Renzi, can now be counted among the many "titans of the humanities" at Xavier University.

The Fortin Award was established in 2013 to recog-

nize "a teacher-scholar who, in the judgment of students and peers, is excellent to outstanding in her or his teaching and, in the judgment of the faculty, shows evidence of scholarship that is recognized and given positive evaluations by the scholarly community."

Renzi began at Xavier in 2013 after earning a B.A. at Denison University and earning her M.A., M.F.A. and

Ph.D. from Indiana University.

She currently serves as an associate professor in the English Department and as Chair of the Department of Race, Intersectionality, Gender and Sociology (RIGS).

Dr. David Mengel, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, praised Renzi and her legacy.

"We have every expectation that our current awardee and many other previous awardees will be writing their legacy here for years to come," Mengel said.

The Fortin Award is rooted in legacy. Named after former professor of history Roger A. Fortin, it has been awarded to faculty who Mengel describes as "titans of the humanities."

Former winners include Dr. Steven Frankel, Dr. E. Paul Colella and Dr. Rachel Chrastil.

Renzi is known for taking a creative approach to her classroom.

"Each semester I ask students to produce work within the classroom — expressive avenues outside the traditional academic. And each semester students exhibit some reticence to the more creative assignments," she said.

"And yet, also each semester they produce work that excites. Unconventional and unbounded books, books in the box, inventory that has been painted, and more," Ren-

zi added.

In Renzi's 400-level Transatlantic Literature course, students are required to produce a zine, among other unorthodox assignments.

On display at the ceremony was a table with a sample of creative works by Renzi's students: a collection of zines, paintings, comics, writing samples and other art works.

"Here, I think, is the heart of what the humanities can and should do in a university classroom," Renzi said.

While students may know Renzi for one of her many English courses, that isn't all she offers at Xavier.

In her time at the university, Renzi has offered over a dozen different courses, ranging from CORE classes to se-

nior capstone. Frankel, Professor of philosophy and last year's award winner, noted Renzi's wide range of interests and broad body of work.

"...(Renzi's) teaching interests are extraordinarily eclectic. In fact, she offers a wider range of coursework than any other member of the English department," Frankel said.

It's clear that for Renzi, she's here for her students.

"It takes an exceptionally gifted teacher to succeed in reaching such a diverse student population and offering them transformative educational experiences. Renzi is just such a teacher, as her student evaluations, comparative data, peer observation letters and annual reviews all unanimously attest," he added.



Dr. Renzi, above, stands alongside a table post-ceremony featuring some of her student's works, along with her own publications.



Dr. Renzi shares remarks with fellow faculty and administrators while accepting the Fortin Award last Wednesday during a ceremony.

Photo-op: Professors Who Go Above and Beyond

BY MOLLY HULLIGAN
Head Copy Editor



Hannah Thompson
Junior

English and communication studies double major

"Dr. Herren constantly goes out of his way to make class a welcoming and inclusive environment — that does not go unseen. His clear passion for literature and Bob Dylan bleeds into his teaching and inspires students. It's a good day if I'm going to his class."



Cam Quesea
Sophomore
Psychology major

"A professor that I appreciate is Dr. Diab, my MATH 116 professor. You can tell she loves her job; she is always willing to help the class when we need it and always super interested in what's going on in our lives. I greatly appreciate her willingness to put our education first. She always finds time before or during class to connect with us and talk about things that are not always statistics."



Audrey Peterman
Senior

English, psychology and gender and diversity studies triple major

"Dr. Fuller in the psychology department has been an invaluable resource during my time here at Xavier. She truly cares for the well being of her students and for their success both in and out of the classroom. No matter if it's spending time helping me prepare my graduate school applications or something else she goes above and beyond."

March 20, 2022 Student Government Association Meeting Recap

BY JUSTICE DICKEY

- SGA advisors discussed events that will be going on around campus to celebrate March Madness and Xavier men's basketball's advancement into the Sweet 16. They recommend students keep an eye on their email as this week will be full of homecoming-like events and opportunities to win prizes.
- Sen. Delumpa of the Academic Affairs committee reported many negative comments about the potential addition of football as well as suggestions for changes in the Hoff Dining Commons.
- A member of the public inquired about potentially developing a service dog park on campus.

Photo Op: Xavier MBB in Sweet 16

Students react to campus energy changes and star Musketeers on the team

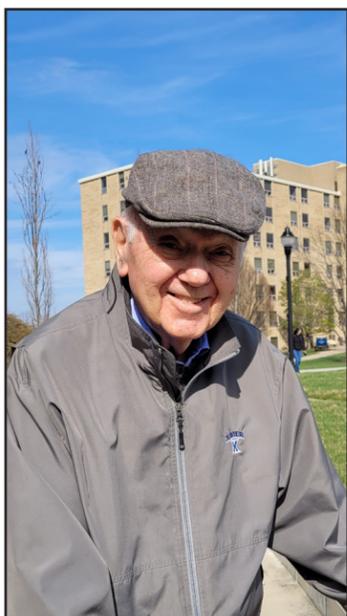
BY EMILY CROFT
Staff Writer

Students speak up on their first Sweet 16 with Xavier. *NewsWire* is asking: How have you seen campus change since our Sweet 16 berth, and who do we have to thank for this amazing season?



“Jerome Hunter carried this. And Adam Kunkel — I’m a big Adam Kunkel fan... I think it’s really interesting to see how normally, you’d have a rebuilding year (as a coach) because you’re new, you don’t know these players. That’s your year to build. But it’s crazy to see how far we’ve come within Sean Miller’s first season being back. You really realize how — this sounds awful — how bad Travis Steele was... You really realize how we needed this change so badly.”

— Mary-Beatriz Garcia, senior nursing major



“I’m rooting for the Final Four, but I’m pretty confident we’ll make it to the Eight!”

— Father B



“I don’t really follow sports that much, but people seem to be talking about it a lot. People seem to be debating about how far we will go. My grandfather called me just to talk about the game against Pitt, because that’s where he went to. I guess you could say that it’s caused family togetherness.”

— Abigail Murray, senior Philosophy, Politics and the Public major



“I’m excited to be back in the Sweet 16, about Sean Miller being back. I hope he’s here to stay. I’m just excited.”

— Luke Morrissey, sophomore finance major



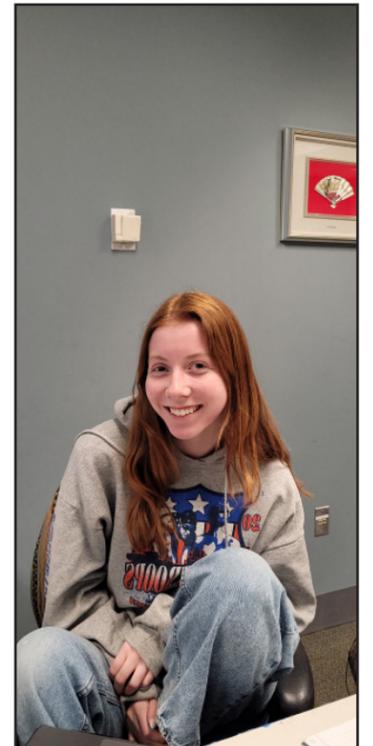
“The thing I love about March Madness is that so many different teams can win, and the seeding doesn’t really matter, but it comes down to the team’s grit and determination and those last couple minutes. I think that’s what we’ve seen with Xavier these past few games. They’re going to continue fighting ‘til the last buzzer... I think we have a great group of guys on our team who have really created a mentality for the whole Xavier community. Determination has been our key thing.”

— Luke Cook, first-year exercise science major



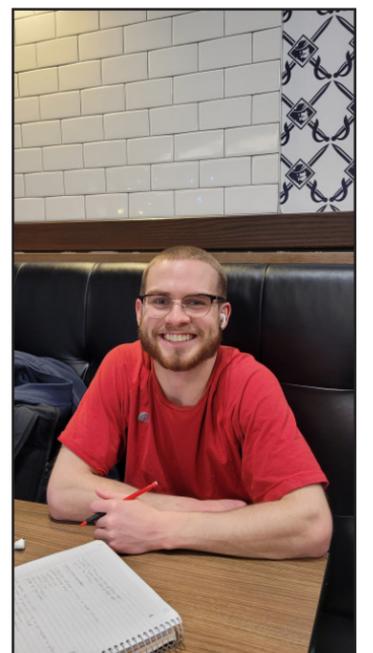
“I think what’s gotten us so far is probably just the team that we’ve had. We’ve had it for a few years, with Kunkel and Colby Jones. And we won the NIT last year, so they’ve had a few years to warm up together and build that chemistry. With the introduction, too, of Souley Boum and some other big key players, we’ve finally gotten to the point where they mesh so well. They’ve built that chemistry up to the point where they’re a solid team. I also think the introduction of Sean Miller as a coach has inspired them to elevate to a different level than the years before.”

— Harrison Byerley, junior DIFT major



“There’s a lot of camaraderie... It’s nice watching the community come together for this one thing.”

— Abigail Myers, sophomore business analytics and marketing major



The chit-chat prior to class starting is all March Madness in general, but things certainly like the draw or the players, who’s playing well... Jerome Hunter. Jerome Hunter all the way. Number one Jerome Hunter fan on campus, I’ll give you that right now. I mean, I think everybody’s noticed, but he’s really stepped up when he need to, and he just keeps on performing. Mr. Consistent. He’s just awesome to watch, so entertaining.”

— Lucas Houk, senior finance and international business double major



Householder Convicted

BY MORGAN MILES
Staff Writer

Former Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder used thousands of dollars of bribery money to improve his Florida vacation home and pay off credit card debt. Now, charged with racketeering, Householder is paying with time, potentially facing 20 years in prison.

Elected to the Statehouse in 1996, Householder represented Northeastern Ohio as former Ohio House Speaker. He served until 2004 when he was forced to leave due to office term limits. He also served as speaker during this time, until he was elected back into the chamber in 2017.

Householder and former Ohio Republican Party chair Mathew Borges, along with two other associates, were arrested and charged with racketeering conspiracy in July 2020. Federal prosecutors also accused then 63-year-old Householder of controlling "Generation Now," a nonprofit that been gifted nearly \$60 million by FirstEnergy. U.S. Attorney David DeVillers described the charges as "likely the largest bribery money laundering scheme ever perpetrated against the people of the state of Ohio."

In 2017, Householder's tax-exempt social welfare account, "Generation Now," began receiving quarterly \$250,000 payments from FirstEnergy, a nuclear energy company based in Akron, Ohio. Householder spent payments from FirstEnergy on supporting House Bill (HB) 6's passage. HB 6 saved two of FirstEnergy's nuclear power plants in a \$1.3 billion dollar bailout.

During a Washington, D.C. trip in 2017, executives of FirstEnergy contacted Householder through calls, emails and texts. These messages were revealed by prosecutors to include FirstEnergy representatives pressuring the passing of HB 6, and messages shared after the successful bailout.

Alongside HB 6, Householder spent FirstEnergy's bribe money on his bid for speaker, garnering support from other House candidates. More than \$500,000 was spent on repairing Householder's Florida vacation home, settling a lawsuit and paying off credit card debt.

Borges used roughly \$370,000 for himself and \$15,000 to bribe others for information on how many signatures had been collected on the ballot.

The 2023 trial exposed Householder, who received a \$400,000 check from FirstEnergy in 2018. The former speaker perjured himself regarding this check.

Householder claimed that he met with FirstEnergy officials for only ten minutes and never took the check from the envelope they handed him. Prosecutors later revealed texts between then FirstEnergy CEO Chuck Jones and Householder thanking one another for large financial contributions.

On March 9, Householder and his associates were formally charged with racketeering by a federal jury in connection to a \$60 million scheme.

Responding to the federal jury trial's decision, one of Householder's attorneys, Steven Bradley, expressed disappointment.

"We will take some time to discuss and evaluate our legal options moving forward and will most certainly pursue an appeal... Larry is looking forward to going home and spending time with his family after what has been an exhausting seven-week trial," Bradley said.

Biden Takes Executive Action

BY JUSTICE DICKEY
Guest Writer

Last Tuesday, President Joe Biden visited the community of Monterey Park, California, where 11 individuals were killed after a gunman opened fire during a celebration of the Lunar New Year at the Star Ballroom Dance Studio on Jan. 21.

Biden used this visit to announce an executive order that will increase background checks for gun sales, encourage the effective use of extreme risk protection orders (often referred to as "red flag" laws) and ensure U.S. law enforcement agencies are utilizing the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act that was signed into law on June 25, 2022.

In his announcement, Biden spoke to the people of Monterey Park and the American public: "I'm here with you

today to act."

Biden proceeded to outline the changes that came with the 2022 Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the widest-ranging gun violence bill to be passed in nearly 30 years. The act expanded background check requirements for individuals under 21 years of age and extended federal firearms-related restrictions to individuals convicted of domestic violence misdemeanors.

That bipartisan bill also established new criminal offenses for straw purchasing of firearms, or individuals purchasing a firearm on behalf of another who is legally unable to make the purchase, and trafficking in firearms.

Biden explained that he hopes to further advance the work from this bill with a new Executive Order on Reducing Gun Violence and Making

Our Communities Safer.

"Today, I'm announcing another executive order that will accelerate and intensify this work to save more lives, more quickly," he said.

The executive order draws heavily on ideas from the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. In his speech, which mimicked the language of the executive order, he pushed increased public awareness and use of red flag orders and safe storage laws. Biden also addressed the uptick in firearms stolen during shipping and advocated for increased direct federal support for communities affected by gun violence.

The executive order calls for government agencies to develop proposals explaining how the federal government can better support communities affected by gun violence. Biden expects proposals to account for long and short-term support solutions. These proposals, according to the order, should also recommend any necessary resource allocation from the federal government and associated agencies.

The executive order has continued to fuel animosity among some who believe it violates the second amendment. Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen has begun preparing a lawsuit against the Biden Administration over the new executive order, calling the action "draconian gun control measures."



Photos courtesy of flickr.com

Insulin Prices Capped

BY GRIFFIN BRAMMER
Staff Writer

The pharmaceutical companies Sanofi, Eli Lilly and Novo Nordisk have implemented several measures in the U.S. to cap the price of insulin for citizens with diabetes after federal intervention.

French pharmaceutical company Sanofi announced this past Thursday that it will join competitors Eli Lilly and Novo Nordisk in lowering the price of insulin for those with private insurance. This act would lower the price of Lantus, its most popular insulin, to \$35.

These three companies produce 90% of all insulin in the U.S. market.

The actions of the three conglomerates follow the Biden administration's Inflation Reduction Act from August 2022. The act sought to set the price of insulin for seniors with Medicare.

During his State of the Union address in February, President Joe Biden called for companies to curb the price of insulin for all ages.

"For... the 200,000 young people with Type 1 diabetes, let's cap the cost of insulin at \$35 a month so everyone can

afford it," Biden said. "And drug companies will do very, very well."

Sanofi's act will be fully implemented by the beginning of 2024. Until then, Sanofi already offers the \$35 price cap to those who are not insured.

Junior nursing major Madeline Cutinello reflected on how working in healthcare has given her a realistic perspective of the effect insulin prices have on patients.

"Clinicals are a very eye-opening experience," she said. "As I've seen, patients have the potential to be denied their insulin, and that obviously leads to poor outcomes for these patients."

Representative Greg Landsman (D-Ohio) introduced his first bill this past Wednesday to help lower the cost of insulin for children.

The Making Insulin Affordable for All Children Act aims to ensure all people ages 26 and under with private insurance would have their insulin prices limited to \$35 dollars as well.

"Insulin is a lifesaving medication, but every day in our country families are forced to make drastic financial decisions just to ensure their child with diabetes has what they

need to survive," Landsman said.

Landsman hosted a town hall event in East Westwood on Saturday, where he talked more about his proposed bill.

"I believe there's always common ground to be found between Republicans and Democrats when we talk about investing in children and making sure children have everything they need to do well," he said. "And capping the cost of insulin for children is one of those things that I think we're going to find common ground on."

Cutinello, also a Type 1 diabetic, praises the proposed bill from Landsman.

"I think it's wonderful. Considering us diabetics are dependent on it, we shouldn't have to pay our life's fortunes just for a month's supply of it. It is a significant chunk of our incomes," she said.

She also reflected on the effect this could have for diabetic college students as they begin their careers after graduation.

"This can help young adults as they come into their own and learn their finances without having to lose a chunk of their income to their disability," she added.



Photos courtesy of flickr.com

SVB Bank Collapse Leads to Economic Alarm

BY JUSTIN MALONE AND
PETER MELAHN
Staff Writers

The collapse of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) on March 10 has continued to reverberate through the global economy, triggering financial shockwaves across the banking sector.

Formerly one of the largest lenders in the world for technology startups, SVB filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy last week. A months-long decline in investments sent depositors into panic, and the bank's stock price quickly decreased. The bank's failure is the second largest in U.S. history and the biggest since the financial crisis of 2008.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) seized control of the institution after customers made sudden withdrawal requests of \$42 billion, an outflow that the bank could not accommodate. The move put nearly \$175 billion of customer deposits under the regulators' control.

Banks like SVB generally only keep enough cash on hand to account for anticipated levels of withdrawal requests. The rest is typically invested, which SVB did through government-backed mortgage bonds.

The Federal Reserve dictates the minimum proportion of a bank's total money supply they are required to have on hand, and this generally stays below 10%. By lowering this reserve requirement, the

central bank aims to decrease the rate of lending that occurs and, in turn, cool the economy. Due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Federal Reserve requirements reached as low as 0% in 2020.

For much of 2022, SVB did not employ a Chief Risk Officer to evaluate the stability of their investments. Much of the money SVB invested was in long-term government securities, which they sold at a \$1.8 billion loss last Wednesday, stoking fears among depositors.

"People are certainly fearful of any kind of signs of insta-

bility in the economy. That's what people want right now," Fr. James McCann, S.J., Xavier Jesuit scholar and international politics expert, said.

"It's a time of uncertainty in so many different ways, and people want to have at least some anchors in all of that... I think that when banks in the U.S. suddenly started failing, it caused a discomfort wave of concern over the uncertain future," he added.

The FDIC has assured depositors protected under their authority that they will receive repayment by the beginning of this week. The FDIC,

as well as the Federal Reserve, hope to use their authority to create stability in light of the recent turmoil.

After the announcement of the bank's failure, investors sold off large amounts of stocks belonging to SVB's peers, including First Republic and Signature Bank. Both banks boasted similar investment portfolios, catered to start-up ventures and filed for bankruptcy or were bailed out last week.

These concerns provoked U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen to publicly assure investors that the banking system was resilient.

However, the implosion of SVB also sent investors' overall confidence crumbling in parts of Europe, which sent the stocks of major European institutions like Germany's Deutsche Bank and France's Société Générale and BNP Paribas tumbling.

Switzerland's Credit Suisse, — one of the largest lenders in the world — also acknowl-

edged "material weakness" in its bookkeeping. The Saudi National Bank — its largest shareholder — announced that they could not invest more money into the bank, citing regulatory restrictions.

These announcements came after Credit Suisse confirmed that clients had pulled out 110 billion Swiss francs (\$119 billion) from the bank in the fourth quarter and posted its biggest annual loss of \$7.86 billion since the 2008 financial crisis, triggering more economic worry in Europe.

Last Thursday, Credit Suisse announced they would borrow up to \$54 billion from the Swiss National Bank. Three days later, rival bank USB agreed to buy Credit Suisse.

"Considering that the Swiss central bank is very large, much larger than the others that to buttress the reserve, they want to ensure the perception of stability, and that seems to have worked, at least for now," McCann noted.



Photo courtesy of Flickr.com

Biden Issues Ultimatum to TikTok

BY MICHAEL
DEMENTEJVS
Staff Writer

The Biden administration has demanded that the Chinese owners of the social media app TikTok sell their stakes or face a nationwide ban.

This comes amid security concerns that TikTok's Chinese-based parent company, ByteDance, is using American user data for espionage on behalf of the Chinese government. The United States and Europe have already moved to ban TikTok on government-issued devices. New Zealand recently banned the video-sharing app on devices that are connected to parliament's network that will end by the end of March.

The move to ban the app has been heralded as a bipartisan national security effort, though some speculate it could be driven by Republican scrutiny of President Joe Biden's diplomatic ties with China.

"Communist China: steals

our intellectual property, hurts American manufacturing, supplies our enemies, distracts Americans on TikTok, flies a spy balloon over our county; And what is Joe Biden doing about it? Nothing," Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH) tweeted.

More than two years ago, the Trump administration attempted to make the same ultimatum, but the move was halted by federal courts. If the Biden administration follows suit, TikTok owners will likely challenge the legality of the ban again.

This comes after a two-year investigation by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S. (CFIUS), which examined whether or not American users' data had been properly protected. As a response, TikTok officials stated they will invest \$1.5 billion on the plan Project Texas to restore American confidence in TikTok's operations.

CFIUS was, at first, satisfied with the cybersecurity measures TikTok enacted but have since rejected Project Texas and are demanding that

the Chinese-parent company ByteDance sell the app to an American company. This was met with resistance by the company.

"The best way to address concerns about national security is with transparency, U.S.-based protection of U.S. user data and systems," TikTok spokeswoman Brooke Oberwetter said. She added that the demand from the CFIUS for ByteDance to sell the TikTok would not solve U.S. cyber and national security concerns.

The bipartisan Restricting the Emergence of Security Threats that Risk Information and Communications Technology Act, or the RESTRICT Act, was unveiled in early March and would give Biden the authority to ban TikTok if passed. by Congress.

TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew is scheduled to appear before the House Energy and Commerce committee for testimony on Thursday regarding the company's potential role in data sharing.

Science Simplified

By Reagan Oliver
Staff Writer

The lab rat room is steaming up as scientists have created the first mouse to have two fathers.

Katsuhiko Hayashi of Kyushu University and Osaka University in Japan led a team of scientists to create a baby mouse by taking the sperm of one male mouse and turning the stem cells of the other male into female cells. To accomplish this, the scientists took skin cells from the male mice's tails, transforming them into induced pluripotent stem cells.

This type of cell has the ability to develop in multiple different cells, making it the perfect blank canvas for scientists to alter. Then, they used a specialized drug to convert the male stem cells into female cells, which then produced a functional egg.

Those eggs were fertilized and placed into female mice for their gestation period. They fertilized 630 eggs, but only seven grew into living mouse pups. These pups grew normally and were able to reproduce.

This success now introduces the idea of expansion to make this possible for humans. Yet, this process is still far from human application since only a few mouse embryos from the experiment were born alive, and it is still being determined if the same technique would be possible on human cells.

"It's a very clever strategy that's been developed for converting male stem cells to female stem cells... It's an important step in both stem cell and reproductive biology," Diana Laird, a stem cell and reproductive expert at the University of California San Francisco, stated.

The potential for replicating the process in larger mammals is still unknown, but it opens up the potential for further studies on the matter.

Hey Hey Ho Ho PVC Has To Go

The Norfolk Southern derailment in East Palestine was a symptom of a much larger problem we have been ignoring for too long.

Inadequate railroad safety regulations, staffing and workers' rights protections aside, there is no good reason to put volatile hazardous materials in any position where they can cause harm to people, animals and the environment in the way they have been. They have to go.

This is a big ask; however, toxic substances are much more present in your community than you think. So, for now, we have to start with one which poses a large threat to humans and nature alike by virtue of the volume in which is it used and its capacity for damage: polyvinyl chloride (PVC).

To be clear, the most hazardous substance contained in the train cars that derailed is a liquid called vinyl chloride monomer (VCM). It is the highly flammable and volatile precursor to PVC, which is used in the production of piping, fake leather, vinyl house siding, cable insulation and flooring, among hundreds of

other products.

The issue is our late-stage capitalist society relies heavily on these materials. We overlook the dangers of transporting VCM and using PVC because they are easy and cheap to produce, they are durable and versatile and because they have electrical insulation and flame-retardant properties.

Even if it was safe to transport VCM and other toxic PVC additives, there are a host of disadvantages to PVC that make clear why it must be banned.

First, it is important to understand why it is so dangerous to produce and transport VCM. First and foremost, it is a Group 1 carcinogen, meaning there is extensive evidence proving it causes cancer in humans. Anyone who is exposed to large concentrations of VCM over time has a high risk of developing hepatic angiosarcoma.

Acute exposure to fumes can cause headaches, sleepiness, dizziness and nausea. These are consistent with the symptoms reported by East Palestine residents in the weeks after the derailment.

In terms of the production

process itself, making chlorine to produce PVC uses chemicals such as PFAS, mercury, asbestos and chlorine gas. Inevitably, these substances leak into the environment around PVC plants and workers are constantly exposed to them.

VCM is also a chlorinated chemical, and when chlorinated chemicals catch fire (which is very possible in any stage of production and transportation), they have the potential to combust into dioxins. Dioxins are among the most hazardous chemicals on Earth to humans and the environment. They are best known for being the primary poison in Agent Orange.

Not only are dioxins extremely toxic, but they are bioaccumulative and persistent. This means that they will build up in the food chain as contaminated organisms eat each other, and the largest amount of the substance will end up in the top rung, which includes humans. They will also stay in our bodies and the environment for years after exposure or consumption.

Even outside the aforementioned risks, PVC is often mixed with additives that

change its hardness, flexibility and degradation properties. These include, but are not limited to, phthalates, which disrupt the endocrine system and cause reproductive health issues, lead and cadmium, which are linked to brain, kidney and red blood cell production damage, and organotins, which can cause immune, nervous, endocrine and reproductive system harm.

These additives are not chemically bound to the PVC they have been added to. Therefore, over the lifetime of any product with PVC in it, these chemicals will start to leach out into the environment, into our homes, into our bodies and into the bodies of our children.

It is clear that our government understands the hazards of exposure to vinyl chloride compounds, as they were banned from use in aerosols in 1974 by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. However, we continue to subsidize fossil fuels used to create plastic, and 50 years after this acknowledgement of the danger of vinyl chloride, it is still the third-most produced type of plastic in America.

If the health effects of VCM and PVC on humans are so detrimental, just imagine what they can do to ecosystems. We have doctors, medicine and healthcare. The fish and the trees do not. They are susceptible to the chemicals we feed them, and many will die as a result.

While there are disadvantages to all types of plastic, none are nearly so dangerous in all stages of production and use as PVC. It is high time the U.S. follow the example of many other countries with successful economies, such as Canada, Spain, the Czech Republic and South Korea, to ban the material from use.



Julia Lankisch is a staff writer for *News-wire*. She is a senior environmental science and music double major from Napperville, Illinois.

Tennessee Takes Aim At Marriage Rights

On March 6, a bill passed the Tennessee House of Representatives. This bill, introduced by Tennessee Representative Monty Fritts, would allow Tennessee clerks and officiants to refuse to solemnize a couple's marriage or grant them a marriage license if it did not align with their personal beliefs.

Fritts claimed that this bill is intended to protect clerks. He also claimed that he is not aware of anyone who has been forced to solemnize a marriage against their will, so from what he is defending the clerks remains unclear. The bill, which was expected to be discussed in the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 13, has been deferred until January 2024.

While Fritts and many conservative organizations claim that the bill is not in-

tended to harm or prohibit the rights of same-sex couples, it is hard to imagine any other reason to present the bill.

Realistically, state clerks are not harmed by issuing marriage licenses; in fact it is one of the primary facets of their job. Allowing these people a blanket excuse to not do their job is bad enough; rationalizing that excuse by claiming that issuing marriage licenses to diverse couples is harming them or their beliefs is bigotry.

This bill doesn't only affect queer couples, or even just couples in Tennessee. The bill's vague wording means that clerks would be able to deny marriage licenses to couples for any reason that they claim makes them uncomfortable; this could mean issues for same-sex couples, interracial couples and even

inter-faith couples.

The bill provides the states a way to deny marriage licenses while avoiding violating any of the rulings in *Obergefell v. Hodges* or *Davis v. Ermold* — potentially establishing a dangerous precedent for other states to follow.

Over the next 10 months, as the bill is buried in Tennessee's legal system and most people forget about it, the state legislators likely hope opposition to the bill will die down so that it can pass quietly through the Senate and into law; I hope that it does not.

For the past eight years same-sex couples have lived in relative security, legally speaking. The ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges* was a tremendous step forward and since 2015 has been supported by numerous other rulings and policies. This bill is an attempt to be-

gin to take away everything our communities have fought for, not only over these last eight years, but for decades.

This bill represents the beginning of the end. It means that a coordinated effort from Tennessee clerks could mean the end of same-sex marriage in that state and, legally, those clerks would be doing nothing outside of their authority. Additionally, this bill is only one more step in the restrictive conservative laws that have been pervasive in Tennessee's legislature this year. And, as we've seen from other examples, many states are eager to follow Tennessee's example when it comes to these laws, such as the nine states that quickly followed Tennessee's restrictions on drag performances with similar bills of their own.

For now, we all have the

right to get married. For our brothers and sisters in Tennessee, those days may be drawing to a close, and you can be certain that if these restrictions are allowed to stand in one state, they will quickly migrate throughout the United States. To defend ourselves and our families, we must, indeed, all hang together.



Carter Roos is a staff writer for *News-wire*. He is a first-year English major from Waynesville, Ohio.

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

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On the State of YouTube Boxing

When you think of the sport of boxing, what is the first thing that comes to mind? Is it the image of two people slugging each other violently with comically huge gloves in a ring? Or is it two warriors who have dedicated their lives to an art which revolves around constant discipline up until the day where their skills are pitted against each another?

Either way, boxing is a sport with a long and tenured history that has fallen to the wayside in the combat sports world. One can argue that it has lost a sense of credibility with many of its top fighters refusing to fight each other.

For example, two of the best fighters in the world, Errol Spence Jr. and Terrence Crawford, are very close in weight and are both on the pound-for-pound list. For context, the pound for pound list shows the best fighters in the world.

Instead of fighting each other to see who is the better, they avoid each other and pick out fighters who are not as skilled and utterly destroy them to retain their places on the pound-for-pound list.

These faces of the sport who refuse to fight each other

er are making many fight fans turn their attention to different sports.

For example, the MMA juggernaut known as the Ultimate Fighting Championship has an event almost every week with ranked fighters going against each other. Although not the most morally sound person, UFC president Dana White is a genius in terms of marketing fighters and creating matchups that excite both hardcore and casual fans of the sport.

In contrast, many boxers have managers who will bargain with various organizations only to have these talks fall through. These cycles often continue until each fight is far less intriguing than the previous target date for various reasons such as injury or old age.

Ironically enough, what has brought back attention to boxing hasn't been the boxers, but entirely new faces who picked up the sport recently. YouTubers such as Jake Paul and KSI have picked up the gloves for a chance to attain stardom in a new medium.

The fact that YouTubers are the ones bringing attention to boxing angers

many fans, mainly because many YouTubers only went "pro" to fight each other. In their view, YouTube boxers have no interest in the actual sport and are only trying it out to amuse fans and reap the financial benefits of fighting.

And to a certain extent, I am inclined to agree with this statement. Many YouTubers more than likely picked up boxing simply to entertain their social media audiences with another entertainment venture.

What many YouTubers call "pro" boxing, more often than not, is inferior to even the worst professionals in the sport. Just a few weeks ago, Tommy Fury managed to beat Jake Paul with a sound jab and solid footwork. Tommy Fury, while related to Tyson Fury, has beaten professional boxers with a combined record of 24-176-5 before fighting Jake Paul.

Now, Jake Paul's professional record is 6-1. And while this may sound impressive, his victories have come against another new YouTuber, a retired NBA player and multiple old and retired MMA fighters.

This means that Paul's first real boxer he fought was a man who only won against

opponents with a combined record of 24-176-5. Not a good look for one of the biggest faces in boxing today.

Even though the above is true, I still believe that this attention to the sport is good. YouTubers deciding to venture into boxing have absolutely influenced many of their viewers to have more of an interest in the sport or even try it out themselves.

With this interest in boxing, many of those who try out the sport will reap the benefits of trying it. This can help many people get into shape when they may be struggling to find a fun way to workout. Boxing, and many martial arts in general, will surround you with a community that often pushes you past what you previously thought were your limits.

Not only that, in my experience, many of these communities are filled with kind people who only want you to reach your goals and grow from your experience in their art. Many coaches are people who dedicated their lives to their art not just to train people as athletes, but to help them grow as individuals with their progression through martial arts.

After all, there has to be a reason people stick with a sport where they face the risk of permanent brain damage. It cannot just be the pride and glory of battle alone that keeps so many there, even if that is a factor that attracts many.

I'm sure that many YouTubers who ventured into boxing have noticed this especially those who have stuck with it. Even when they lose, some have come back to fight again. And even those who do not compete may still train because they have discovered they genuinely love boxing and do not want to leave it behind.



Jesse Dolojan is a staff-writer for *News-wire*. He is a junior English major from Fort Washington, Maryland.

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March Madness: Xavier Enters Sweet 16

XU KOs Kennesaw State in buzzerbeater, pulverizes Pitt before taking on Texas

By CHARLIE GSTALDER
Opinions Editor

March is still mad for our Muskies, as Xavier's men's basketball team punched their ticket to the Sweet 16 with an 84-73 victory over the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt).

This marks the team's first Sweet 16 bid since 2017.

While the Musketeers led Pitt — the alma mater of Head Coach Sean Miller — for the entirety of the game, it was not quite nothing but net for the team's stars.

Star point guard Souley Boum struggled to find his momentum early, missing his first six shots and remaining ice cold for the entirety of the first half. Boum began to hit his stride in the second half, nabbing a defensive rebound before getting fouled on a shot attempt, splitting his free throws and finally making it onto the board.

There were a few more stumbles for Boum, who committed a turnover and went awry on a layup and three ball. But that all changed with 13 minutes left in the second half, when a three by Boum found the bottom of the net to put the Musketeers up by 16. From then on, business was Boum-ing, with Souley dropping in another 10 points on a variety of smart shots for a 14 piece on the night.

Senior guard Adam Kunkel was feeling it from deep, burying five three-pointers in the first half alone. However, in a reverse of Boum's outing, went scoreless for the second half. Kunkel rounded out his performance with four rebounds and three assists and picked the pockets of the Pitt Panthers to the tune of three steals.

Jack Nunge, the Muskie's



Graduate student forward Jack Nunge (left) left Sunday's game the top scorer for the Musketeers with 18 points. Xavier's easy win over Pitt guarantees them a battle against Texas in the Sweet 16 on Friday.

seven-foot senior forward, was the team's leading scorer, dropping in 18 points on a diet of silky layups and thunderous dunks. Nunge's 18-point outburst left him tied with Pitt forward Blake Hinson for the game's overall top scorer.

Junior guard Colby Jones went off for a double double, with 10 points and 14 rebounds, and assisted on another seven baskets.

Senior forward Jerome Hunter's 14 points on the night ensured that the entirety of Xavier's starting five hit double digits in scoring. Backup guard Desmond Claude put up another 11 points off the bench, meaning all but one of Xavier's ac-

tive players broke the double digit barrier.

The diversity of scoring could be due in part to Xavier's tremendously unselfish play, with the Musketeers entering the game with the nation's highest assist average at 19.2 per game. The shift to assists had surprised some, given Miller's previous team's slow and deliberative style of play. Whatever the reason, the Musketeer's speed on the court remained unmatched and undoubtedly contributed a great deal to Sunday's win.

In keeping with the Big East's reputation for physicality, Xavier got into some foul trouble, eventually leading to Nunge fouling out with just over three minutes left in

the game. Four other Muskies picked up three fouls each, with five occurring in just the last two minutes of play. Despite the stoppage of play, Xavier was able to convert on their attempts at the line and did not allow Pitt to close the

Photo courtesy of goxavier.com

lead.

Xavier is set to play the two-seeded Texas on Friday. The game will be aired in the primetime slot on CBS, but real fans will be watching from the patio at Dana Gardens.

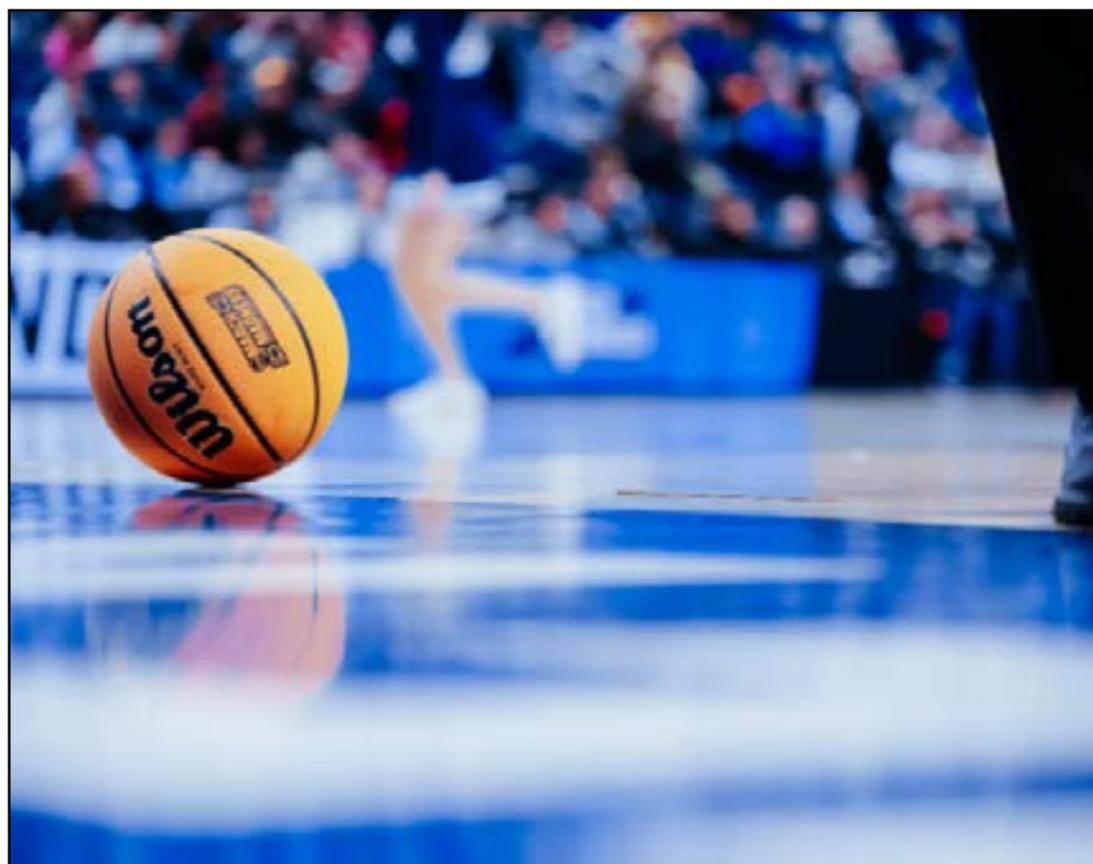


Photo courtesy of goxavier.com

Senior guard Adam Kunkel repped the Musketeers from head to tongue at the Round of 32 March Madness game against Pitt on Sunday.

XU Baseball Sweeps Wofford Terriers

BY JUSTIN MALONE
Staff Writer

The Xavier baseball team wrapped up a grueling three-game series against Wofford last weekend, sweeping the Terriers by scores of 9-1, 5-2 and 14-10 and improving to 10-9 on the season.

In the series opener, the Musketeers took an early lead after sophomore pitcher Carter Hendrickson hit an RBI triple to drive in senior outfielder and first baseman Tyler DeMartino for the first run of the game. Wofford then evened the score in the fifth inning after sophomore outfielder David Wiley singled, bringing in designated hitter Aaron Thomas for the tying run.

The tie remained until the eighth inning, when freshman catcher Hayden Christiansen crushed a two-run home run to left — his second of the year — to lift the Musketeers to a 3-1 lead they would not relinquish. The offensive attack opened the floodgates in the ninth, with Xavier breaking the game open by adding six runs and seven hits to make the final score 9-1.

Senior starting pitcher Ethan Bosacker struck out a season-high nine batters in six innings during his fifth start of the season. Sophomore pitcher Justin Loer en-



Photo courtesy of goxavier.com

Senior starting pitcher Ethan Bosacker broke a personal record at Wofford this weekend, striking out nine batters in six innings. Graduate pitcher Brant Alazaus matched his own 11 strikeouts in the second game.

tered in the seventh, going two scoreless innings and striking out two. Junior pitcher Connor Bailey dealt a 1-2-3 ninth inning to close out the game.

The tough second game of the doubleheader sparked when the Terriers struck first in the third. The Musketeers responded after Hendrickson hit his second home run of the year to even the score to 1-1 in the fifth, which remained tied through the ninth inning. Xavier took the lead in

the 10th, when junior catcher Matthew DePrey hit an RBI single. Wofford responded in the bottom of the inning to extend the game further.

The Musketeers took the lead for good in the 14th after graduate infielder Jack Housinger hit a three-run homer to right field to give the Musketeers a 5-2 lead.

Graduate pitcher Brant Alazaus pitched a season-long seven innings and matched his career-high 11 strikeouts. Alazaus and the Musketeer

bullpen — composed of senior Jonathan Kelley, graduate student Clay Schwaner, freshman Nick Kolze and senior Creighton Hansen — combined for a season-high 17 strikeouts, which are the most for a Musketeer pitching staff since 2020.

Also assisting the Musketeers' efforts were graduate outfielder Andrew Walker, who went 3-6 and came around the bases to score a run, and sophomore infielder Luke Hammond, who also

scored a run on a 1-2 effort. To close the weekend, the Musketeers initially took control with early offensive firepower in the final game, taking an early 7-0 lead in the first inning and tacking on another in the second.

However, the Terriers roared back to score four runs and cut their deficit in half in the bottom of the second and pulled within three in the third.

Xavier responded with their own offensive invigoration. The Musketeers posted a big four-run fourth inning, highlighted by a two-run moonshot by DePrey, to go up 12-7. Though Wofford added two runs in the sixth and seventh to reduce the lead to two, home runs from Hendrickson and senior infielder Jared Cushing solidified the Musketeer victory, setting the final score at 14-10.

On the mound, senior pitcher Luke Bell pitched five innings in his first win of the season, and Loer finished the last two innings of the game and struck out four batters.

At the plate, senior outfielder Alex Helmin went 2-4 and finished with a team-high three RBIs, and Walker finished 3-6 with two RBIs and two runs scored.

The Musketeers continue their campaign at home against Cincinnati tonight.

Team USA Dominates Cuba in WBC Semifinal

BY JUSTIN MALONE
Staff Writer

Team USA is just one victory away from defending its World Baseball Classic (WBC) championship crown, cruising past Cuba in a 14-2 blowout victory to advance into the primer international tournament's finale.

The Americans' lopsided victory in the game culminated from an effective combination of offensive firepower and pitching efficiency from its star-studded roster, which started early on in the contest. Cuba got off to a great start, producing three infield hits and an RBI walk by designated hitter Alfredo Despaigne in the first inning to give USA some early challenges.

However, starting pitcher Adam Wainwright and the Americans' defensive efforts limited Cuba to scoring just one run in the inning. A ground ball to third (which third baseman Nolan Arenado threw to home plate for the force out), a pop-up to second and a ground ball to shortstop curtailed Cuba's efforts.

Team USA then invigorated their own offensive efforts in the bottom of the first as right fielder Mookie Betts doubled and first-baseman Paul Goldschmidt kickstarted the scoring by pummeling a 407-foot, two-run homer to



Team USA is poised to retain its title as the champion leftfielder to take a 2-1 lead.

Shortstop Trea Turner picked up right where he left off against the Americans' quarterfinal performance against Venezuela, blasting a 428-foot home run to give USA a 3-1 lead in the second inning.

In the third, the Americans' loaded the bases with one out as Arenado singled, leftfielder Kyle Schwarber got hit by a pitch and catcher Will Smith walked, threatening to extend the lead. USA scored two more runs after first baseman Pete Alonso converted an RBI single and second baseman Tim Anderson hit a sacrifice fly.

Goldschmidt then drew a walk and scored from first on an Arenado triple in the fourth. The Americans stretched their lead even more after Arenado scored on a Carlos Viera wild pitch to make the score 7-1.

Cuba took advantage of USA's bullpen in the top of the fifth when third baseman Yoan Moncada hit a double and then scored off second baseman Andy Ibanez's single.

USA opened the scoring floodgates in the bottom of the fifth after Goldschmidt hit a 2 RBI single to give USA a 9-2 lead.

Turner then blasted another



Photos courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

of the World Baseball Classic after a win over Cuba. er 396-foot home run to bring in Smith and second baseman Jeff McNeil across the plate in the sixth. The shortstop became only the second-ever player in Team USA history to have a multi-home run game, joining exclusive company with Hall of Famer (and USA coach) Ken Griffey Jr.

Later in the inning, an RBI double by centerfielder Mike Trout and a solo home run by outfielder Cedric Mullens summated USA's scoring efforts, resulting in the final 14-2 score.

Across Team USA's lineup, four players produced multi-hit performances that instigated the Americans' scoring

efforts: Goldschmidt went 2-5 and also drove in four runs on the night, Betts scored two runs and finished 2-6, Arenado converted an RBI and went 2-3, and Turner went 3-5 in his historic performance.

On the mound, Wainwright allowed just 1 run in 4 innings with a strikeout and a walk. Mike Mikolas, who only gave up one run in four innings with three strikeouts, and Aaron Loup finished out the game from the bullpen.

USA is now only the third team to appear in back-to-back championship games, seeking to join the 2006 and 2009 Japan teams as the only back-to-back champs.

Recapping This Year's Oscar Wins

BY GRIFFIN BRAMMER
Staff Writer

Sunday, March 12 marked the 95th annual Academy Awards. Hosted by Jimmy Kimmel, the Academy rolled out the champagne (not red) carpet and welcomed the stars to what ended up being a less drama-filled ceremony than many expected but a record-breaking night nonetheless.

Best Picture:

The multiverse-hopping sci-fi *Everything, Everywhere, All at Once*, by arthouse producer A24, won in the Best Picture category over other frontrunners like *All Quiet*

on the *Western Front* and *The Banshees of Inisherin*. In fact, of the 11 awards the film was nominated for, it won an impressive seven. This included four of the "Big Five" awards: Best Picture, Best Original Screenplay, Best Actress and Best Director.

Best Actor and Actress:

Two fan favorites earned their first academy awards at the Oscars, with Brendan Fraser of *The Whale* winning Best Actor and Michelle Yeoh of *Everything, Everywhere, All at Once* taking home the award for Best Actress.

Many were relieved and touched to see Fraser win due to his complicated history in

the industry that resulted in an almost 15-year break from acting.

Meanwhile, Yeoh made history as being the first Asian actress to ever win the award for Best Actress in a Lead Role.

In her speech, she acknowledged her historic win and her hopes for the impact it would have in inspiring the Asian community.

"For all the little boys and girls who look like me watching tonight, this (Oscar) is a beacon of hope and possibilities," Yeoh stated.

"And ladies, don't let anybody ever tell you you are past your prime," she said with a chuckle.

Best Supporting Actor and Actress:

Everything, Everywhere, All at Once continued to dominate in big categories with co-stars Ke Huy Quan and Jamie Lee Curtis taking home the gold for Best Supporting Actor and Best Supporting Actress, respectively.

Quan delivered the acceptance speech for his first Oscar after a nearly 20-year act-

ing hiatus. He recounted what it meant to be an Asian immigrant actor winning his first Oscar.

"My journey started on a boat. I spent a year in a refugee camp. And somehow, I ended up here on Hollywood's biggest stage," Quan said, holding back tears. "This is the American dream."

While the night also marked the first Oscar win for Curtis in her over 45-year career, the award also came with backlash. Going into the event, many speculated *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever's* Angela Bassett or Curtis' co-star Stephanie Hsu would take home the award for Best Supporting Actress. Many people pointed out online that Curtis' role as Dierdre was not as significant to the film compared to Hsu's role as Joy and accused the Academy of overshadowing actors of color in favor of their white counterparts.

Other Notable Wins:

The Whale also took home the Oscar for Best Makeup and Hairstyling for the prosthetics required to give

Fraser the appearance of a 600-pound man. Notably, this award buzzed a bit of controversy.

"Stop giving fatsuits awards! We want better representation in Hollywood," long time body-positive brand Dove Soap tweeted.

Best Costume Design was given to Ruth E. Carter, the costuming designer behind *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*. This marked history for Carter, as she is the first Black woman to ever win two Oscars.

Best International Feature Film went to the German-language *All Quiet on the Western Front*, based on the Erich Maria Remarque novel of the same name. The war film also took home the awards for Best Original Score, Best Cinematography and Best Production Design.

Finally, in the ever-close category of Best Animated Feature, heavy hitters like Pixar's *Turning Red* and Dreamworks' *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish* ultimately lost to Guillermo Del Toro's stop-motion animated Netflix-produced *Pinocchio*.



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

Final Season of *Succession* Draws Anticipation

BY BEN THOMSON
Staff Writer

Season Three Episode Nine of *Succession* begins with Logan Roy (Brian Cox) receiving an important phone call as his children play Monopoly. This scene is a perfect metaphor for the series and a clear indicator of what's to come in *Succession's* fourth season, which premieres this Sunday on HBO.

Audiences first met the Roy family in 2018, the same year as Walt Disney's landmark, controversial acquisition of 21st Century Fox. It's a zeitgeist show in its truest form, as the writers constantly tap into modern anxieties about wealth, power, greed and betrayal told through the story of a media magnate and his fraught relationship with his children, who all jostle to be heir to the company throne.

The jolty, documentary style cameras will sometimes cut and zoom to service workers preparing massive dining tables in lavish Mediterranean resorts and cruises, producing an effective, sickening display of wealth and exclusivity.

Fittingly, the final showdown of last season occurs at Villa La Cassinella (which boasts a \$100,000 per week stay) between patriarch Logan Roy and his three children Kendall, Siobhan and Roman (Jeremy Strong, Sarah Snook and Kieran Culkin). Logan has just merged his company, Waystar Royco, with tech giant GoJo, giving their CEO (Alexander Skarsgård) full control of the board. This effectively shuts his four children (more on the fourth later) out of any possible chance of assuming CEO at their father's company.

Throughout the show, the

kids do their best to try and be like their dad — killers. The finale ends with Logan revealing what the audience knew from the very beginning: the kids can't be killers. This is why he is unable to ever trust them. They can't be like Logan. Therefore, Logan always wins. To quote the man himself, "It just works."

If the Roy children want their happy ending, they need to break this vicious cycle. The world will be worse off if another Logan takes control. Their lives will be worse off if they try to become another Logan. We see that through Kendall, whose mental health, reputation and relationship with his ex-wife and kids have all fizzled out. In fact, many fans believe Kendall's story will end with an exit stage left via a twelve-story building. The Roy children are products of their father, constantly



A&E SINGLES

BY KYRA HUDSON
Staff Writer

- **Billie Eilish made her acting debut in the Amazon Prime original series *Swarm* (March 17).**
- **Taylor Swift began her Eras Tour starting in Glendale "Swift City," Arizona (March 17).**
- **Fans theorize that Bad Bunny dissed Kendall Jenner's ex Devin Booker in a new song amid relationship rumors between Jenner and the rap star (March 20).**

fighting against their father to ultimately become their father. No matter what happens next season, Logan will win. That's just how it works.

There is one Roy child, however, that has a shot at success — Logan's eldest child from a previous marriage, Connor (Alan Ruck). Connor, my personal favorite character, is mostly left to his own devices. He's a bit dim but doesn't get the respect he deserves. He's a modern Fredo Corleone, but beginning in Season Two, Connor takes an interest in politics, specifically the American presidency — a lofty goal that draws laughs and mockery from his siblings and harsh criticism from his father. This all comes full circle when the other three sib-

lings mislabel Kendall as the oldest son during Kendall's intervention. "I must be taken into account," Connor said, before storming off in anger.

Of course, Connor Roy would be a terrible choice for president. He has zero political or business experience, his views border on a diet Alex Jones and he has a complete lack of any self-awareness. In other words, I think he's going to be president — because *Succession*, at its core, is a comedy, and President Roy (interested in politics from a young age) is the funniest possible outcome.

I doubt any of this will happen. Jesse Armstrong and company are brilliant writers, and I can't wait to see what they have in store for us.



Photo courtesy of creativecommons.org

Spice Up Your Wardrobe This Spring

BY CHARLIE GSTALDER AND KAYLA ROSS
Opinions & Editorials
Editor and Back Page
Editor

Even as Cincinnati weather refuses to be stable enough for you to roll out your spring wardrobe quite yet, spring fashion season is right around the corner. Freshen up your fits and get ready to spring into new styles with two *NewsWire* editors' predictions for the trends of this season.

Dresses Over Jeans

The 2004 Anne Hathaway red carpet look is back. Dresses over jeans have been making a subtle comeback since Spring 2021, but now Lizzo and Hailey Steinfeld have been seen sporting the look on Instagram. Chopova Lowena, who has dressed celebs like Dua Lipa, Willow Smith and Madonna, is in favor of the look. I know what comes to mind: The frumpy looks sported by Miley Cyrus and Ashley Tisdale circa 2008, — but the look of this spring is far more wearable. Rosetta Getty showcased a look in Fall 2021 featuring a white dress with clean, subtle hems and wide leg trousers underneath. They completed the look with a military-style jacket, taking influence from Victorian silhouettes and styling with Doc Martens and hair with messy, romantic waves.

Denim Deep Dive

Speaking of jeans, understanding denim in its many forms is critical to creating your spring look. Perhaps it's due in part to the popularity of Hulu's *The Bear* (in which main character Carmie sells his vintage Levi's to keep his struggling restaurant afloat) or simply a clever and intentional marketing strategy by Levi's itself. Either way, vintage and raw denim are having a moment. There has been much ado about raw, selvedge and vintage denim, and all are great choices.

If you're new to caring about the specifics of jean-related fashion, here's a quick rundown. Vintage denim can



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

be significantly higher quality than modern denim. Proponents swear that vintage denim fades better. But beware, major companies have caught onto this interest and are offering faux-vintage denim, which is marketed as classic while still containing contemporary materials. For that reason, unless you're prepared to undertake a course's worth of research and reach deep into your denim pockets, you should settle for one of these other options.

Raw denim is denim that has been unwashed and untreated since its creation. It's normally significantly stiffer and rougher at first — qualities that are part of the draw, as each pair of jeans will become uniquely suited to the wearer's body over time. Selvedge denim describes a method of weaving the fabric. It's identifiable for the finished seams on the inside of the jean, often signified by a different color of yarn. Selvedge denim isn't necessarily better quality, but offers a subtle and intriguing departure from your usual style of jeans.

Platform Sandals

The excessively-chunky



Photo courtesy of pexels.com

shoes sported by Lizzie McGuire are in this year. (In all colors. For all occasions. And they must be at least four inches tall).

However, this year, we're moving away from pairing these with the loud prints of the Y2K trend that was taking all stores by storm last spring. Instead, pair your chunky sandals with a more casual look, or try a color blocking outfit. The chunk of the shoe gives you all the quirk you want for the outfit without the whole ensemble resembling an Instagram ad for SHEIN.

Less is more this spring! Try the platform sandals with a casual outfit for a young, laid-back and authentic Y2K aesthetic. Pair it with the Britney Bob or a messy updo to complete the look. You could also dress them up with a midi or maxi silk dress. Look at Abercrombie & Fitch online for a more dressy platform sandal look.

The Hippie

The '70s have been coming back in a substantial way, especially with the popularity of Amazon Prime original *Daisy Jones and the Six*. This trend is not just for my people who appreciate a feminine outfit; the vibes of the '70s are coming back everywhere. Men's cut bell bottom pants and vintage graphic tees are a solid option for a more masculine look, especially when paired with a pointed toe leather or crocodile skin boot. Or, if you're feeling the western '70s look, try it with a cowboy style boot. Long sleeve crochet tops and sweaters are in stores high and low, even at Target in the Wild Fable section for \$28. Pair these tops with some flare jeans or a bright maxi skirt for the com-

plete hippie look. No more sad beige sweatsuit summer. This spring and summer, embrace the color. Put on a colorful maxi sundress and pair it with lots of jewelry. Luckily, the hippie look is very forgiving for mixed metals and all kinds of beaded jewelry.

The Julia Roberts Paparazzi Look (Circa 1990)

For a cool casual look, the early '90s Julia Roberts is all the inspiration you need. A casual, short dress and sneakers with a simple bag is versatile for the whole day. Hair done, natural glam and relaxed lines will give you the laid-back, effortless look you've been seeking. This look can also be a loose white or black cropped tee, wide leg jeans and sneakers. Throw on a blazer and curl your hair to dress up the outfit. This vibe has been all over Instagram, which gives you an authentic but put-together edge to your style.

Coastal Cowgirl

The coastal cowgirl look has been taking over my TikTok For You Page, featuring delicate pastels and hyper feminine touches. The key elements of this aesthetic are tiny florals, simple accessories and a Carolina flair. This charming, laid-back look is the kind of vibe you take home to the parents. You need a pair of white or brown cowgirl boots, embroidered dresses and white oversized tops in your closet this spring. Also essential: a straw cowgirl hat. This ensemble features VSCO girl touches, with stackable bracelets and dramatic sunglasses. Don't shy away from a dainty floral balconette bikini top and jean shorts on bottom. The focus colors are white, blues, browns, pastel yellow and baby pink.

Corecore

You may have heard of corecore in relation to TikTok as describing videos of amateur-edited media clips and sad music. It's an anti-trend meant to satirize the mass

proliferation of media and montages. In the context of clothing, corecore can reflect a rejection of complex color and fabric combinations and branded clothing in favor of ready-to-wear essentials. In convenient news for the casual dresser, solid colors, simple cuts and off-the-rack thrift sensibility are back. As always, try layering — combining items of different weights to achieve a slightly more complex and textured feel to your favorite sets of plain tees.



Photo courtesy of pexels.com

Gorpcore

Gorpcore gets its name from gorp, a trail mix-like snack famous among hikers that stands for Good Ol' Raisins and Peanuts. Stylewise, gorpcore features functional yet stylish outerwear. It comes from a style of rain jacket from which gorpcore's other namesake is derived — goretex. Goretex is a specific, trademarked type of waterproof material that has derived a cult-like following for its ability to provide near-perfect water resistance. Despite its popularity, there's no real need to splurge on goretex itself if you're primarily concerned with aesthetics. In that case, you can likely even make use of your existing wardrobe. Try dusting off your old rainboots and a pair of cargo pants, top it off with a lightweight rain jacket and plunge deep into the wilderness of campus.



Photo courtesy of pexels.com



Aries: Do not attempt the coastal cowgirl aesthetic if you hate on country music.



Taurus: When you tell people you're a cat person and a dog person, everyone knows that means you only like cats.



Gemini: In honor of *The Hunger Games* resurgence, revive the Katniss Everdeen braid.



Cancer: Claw clips are extremely dangerous to drive in. Please take them out before you hit the gas.



Leo: Why were Boum and Kunkel beefing? The world may never know. Look it up on YouTube.



Virgo: Please do not play your White boy rap out loud from your phone in the elevator.



Libra: Still haven't taken a fine arts credit? Try out Intro to Tap Dance.



Scorpio: Get a new fidget toy. A happy slug, a monkey rope or some slime should cheer you up.



Sagittarius: Smoking cigs is definitely NOT cool. It definitely does NOT give off the Lana aesthetic.



Capricorn: Kiss, Marry, Kill: Matty Healy, Hozier and Omar Apollo.



Aquarius: You should probably eat a vegetable.



Pisces: No one wants to see you crying on your TikTok story. I just watched three of those. It is not seventh grade, and no one is going to ask if you're okay!



COMIC BY BRIANA DUNN

Mind Over Money

BY MORGAN MILES, STAFF WRITER

I'm really tired of people dogging on capitalism.

If you make money, go to work and still live in the U.S., then why are you hating the system that gets you money, right? Working is basically supporting capitalism. I think a life is worthless if not spent working. After all, there's nothing more to look forward to than capital gain, so I'll never stop grinding. I feel bad for anyone who is disabled or unable to completely dedicate their body to our glorious leader... I mean, president. What use does someone have if they aren't pulling themselves up by their bootstraps into higher class status? It's easy, too, and that's why I think poor people are embarrassing. Clearly they are lazy, and God can sense laziness, so He made sure they were also born with conditions that reflect their poor work ethic. Speaking of which, I have an amazing work ethic. I run a women only business through social media. Everyone is their own boss and can work from home! I've heard my expertise is in em-el-ems, whatever French word that is. I'm very girlboss-oriented and only ask Daddy for a money allowance once a week now. And usually that allowance goes towards fast fashion, which I've heard people hating on. Those child workers go hard on the sewing machines, in my opinion. They are fantastic, and I wish I had a job when I was a kid; they truly are lucky to live in a world that allows children to work such long hours! I appreciate the ability to sometimes purchase suspiciously high-quality pieces, or sometimes paper-thin, lead-paint-smelling clothes that I'll throw into a Goodwill bin by the same time next year. Capitalism gives me the opportunity to express my individuality, not only through fast fashion, but also by fighting against other women for positions of authority. Honestly, I think it's really fun to have to prove my worth when I enter the workplace, and even then I don't overstep because the patriarchy does exist for good reasons (am I right, ladies?) All people should be humbled by having to fight for job positions. Money is the best motivation to keep going. Life is so boring and pointless without money to spend. If someone isn't smart, they end up living paycheck to paycheck. Which is why a minimum federal wage of \$7.49 is good: It reminds the poor people that they need money to be happy and should work more to get some instead of bumming around. I mean, overall, if someone dislikes capitalism, they should probably move to somewhere like Russia, where they could fit in as losers in a country that historically never wins. Also, they are probably commies that support socialism, and I hate how bright red looks on me, so I could never support commies.