



## Inaugural CURA Event Prompts Dialogue

*New student-led group hosts first event recognizing pro-choice and pro-life voices*

By **MARTY DUBECKY**  
*Digital Communications  
Manager*

Last Thursday marked the first event held by the Coalition United for Reproductive Awareness (CURA), a student-led group aimed at opening the door for dialogue about abortion and reproductive rights on campus.

After a protest recognizing the lack of pro-choice voices and the outcry of students on campus last November, student leaders *NewsWire* Back Page Editor Kayla Ross, *NewsWire* Multimedia Managing Editor Spencer de Tenley, Student Government Association (SGA) Senator Evan Nash, SGA Vice President Rebecca Thomas, Giuliana Sadler, Sarah Hissong and Maria Fulhorst came together to discuss how this problem might be solved. Meetings with President Colleen Hanyecz followed, where the students and the president came to the consensus that Xavier's campus needed an outlet to discuss reproductive health.

From these meetings came

CURA.

This semester, CURA's theme is "Beyond Pro-Life & Pro-Choice: Considering Abortion, Gender & Human Sexuality." Thursday's event wrestled with the theme via a bipartisan discussion with three professors. Theology professor Dr. Marcus Mescher and philosophy professors Dr. Bethany Henning and Dr. Alexis Dianda all spoke about reproductive rights according to their own beliefs and their respective fields of expertise.

"We chose the professors that spoke by sending out a form to gauge faculty interest, and we were lucky enough to have Dr. Mescher, Dr. Henning and Dr. Dianda respond with their willingness to help," Ross stated.

Mescher spoke about the Catholic ethics surrounding abortion and reproductive rights. Dianda and Henning both spoke about the morality around abortion, reproductive rights and human sexuality while employing personal and anecdotal stories.

According to Ross, the desire to plan the event has been



*Photo courtesy of xavier.edu*

**Xavier philosophy professors Alexis Dianda (left) and Bethany Henning (center), as well as Xavier theology professor Marcus Mescher (right) spoke at the first event held by CURA last Thursday.**

in the works for a long time.

"We planned the event with the full support of Dr. Griffin and Dr. Hanyecz, with months of coordination to produce something that could be intriguing to students as well as a learning opportunity," Ross said.

After each faculty member

spoke to the audience about their own thoughts on abortion, reproductive rights and human sexuality, the floor was opened for students to ask questions.

Students filled Arrupe Overlook to listen and ask questions of the three faculty members who spoke.

"Given the short amount of time we had to plan this week's event, we all had a vision of building some sort of community with and for one another. I feel we did just about that thanks to the help of Dr. Mescher, Dr. Dianda and Dr. Henning," Fulhorst said.

"We know the event wasn't going to be picture perfect and there's always room for improvement, but I'm just so proud as a Jesuit institution we're finally creating a sense a belonging with one another," Fulhorst added.

After the event concluded,

Dianda spoke about the importance of having an organization like CURA and event like they put on.

"If we can't have these conversations, we don't have a community. For me to say that I am pro-choice takes trust," Dianda said.

It is trust and community that CURA and its student leaders intend to cultivate through their events and campus activity.

"I'm really proud of all the students who put work into this. We really wanted to create a space for students and faculty, regardless of their beliefs, to come together in a safe space to have a difficult conversation," Thomas commented.

"I'm happy with the turnout, but our work is not done. So, be on the lookout for more events," she added.

CURA intends to hold more events next semester.



*Logo created by Sarah Hissong*

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# XU Alum Killed in Louisville Shooting

*Friends and family of Xavier 2005 graduate reminisce over the life of Josh Barrick*

BY ETHAN NICHOLS  
*World News Editor*

Faithful, loyal and welcoming. Those are the three adjectives that Alison Conway used to describe her friend Josh Barrick, who was killed in the April 10 mass shooting at Old National Bank in Louisville, Kentucky.

Barrick was a husband, father of two and a Xavier alum.

Graduating in 2005, Barrick was a double major in finance and marketing. As senior vice president of com-

mercial real estate banking at Old National Bank in Louisville, he spent almost 20 years in the industry and was named one of Louisville Business First's 2020 "People to Know in Banking."

Barrick was an active member of his community, including at his home parish, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, where he coached first and second grade basketball teams.

"Our hearts are heavy, they are broken and we are searching for answers," Fr. Shayne

Duvall, Holy Trinity's pastor, said.

A Louisville native, Barrick graduated from Trinity High School and was described as an outstanding student who continued supporting the school long after graduation. He frequently volunteered at the annual bloodmobile and came back as an alumnus to help with the senior retreats.

"Josh was an ideal classmate, a conscientious student and friend to all who embodied the brotherhood of Trinity. He was a devoted and loving husband and father who will be missed by all of those who were fortunate enough to know him," Mike Paradis, the chair-elect of the Trinity School Board and one of Barrick's classmates, said.

Alison Conway, a friend of Barrick's, shared that he "took great pride in being a Xavier alum."

"Josh loved every chance he had to watch a Xavier game with his friends. His family became Xavier fans through his love of his time there. It has been said many times this week that when you have Josh on your side, he's there for life. He's loyal beyond measure and loved his family endlessly. Truly one of the best people I will ever have the opportunity to know, and while my time with him was cut far too short, I will be forever grateful for the impact he made on my life," Conway shared.

"His wife and his children will have his amazing legacy to get them through this incredibly difficult time and a strong community of friends and family who love them dearly," Conway added.

Childhood friend of Barrick Chris Glasser said many of his most cherished mem-

ories with Barrick came from

said. basketball and that he was a "constant of [his] childhood."

"Josh's favorite players were Reggie Miller and Chris Mullin, and that was his game too. An efficient, effortless scorer. He was someone we all feared in a game of knockout," Glasser said.

President Colleen Hanycz shared her sympathies with the Barrick family and all impacted by the shooting.

"This feels different because it's one of our community members, but this is no different than the countless individuals who have died in mass shootings and continue to die in mass shootings across this country. It's no more, it's no less. It's the loss of a human life that should never have been lost; it just feels different when Josh Barrick is in our family," Hanycz

Hanycz praised Barrick as a paragon of Xavier's ideals and values.

"He's so much of what I hope for our graduates to be: active, engaged members of their communities with a love of family, a love of God and an absolute belief that they are making a difference in the world," Hanycz said.

"I can't imagine anyone looking at our current landscape and not concluding that something needs to change. All people of goodwill would agree that something needs to change... Clearly, this president, this mother, this community member, is absolutely convinced that something needs to change," Hanycz continued.

Josh Barrick, a lifelong Musketeer, was laid to rest in Louisville last Saturday.



Photo courtesy of Alison Conway

**Josh Barrick, killed in the recent Louisville shooting, was the husband to Jessica and father to 9-year-old Carolina and 7-year-old James.**

## Justice Deters Speaks to Students at Take It On Event

BY KATIE SANCHEZ  
*Arts & Entertainment Editor*

The Take It On Initiative hosted an event on April 11 to promote dialogue among students regarding the Xavier administration's appointment of Ohio Supreme Court Justice Joe Deters to "Justice in Residence."

The event, held in the Surkamp Family Room in the Xavier Alumni Center, was attended by approximately 15 students who were recommended by faculty, staff and their peers as leaders in Ignatian civic dialogue and engagement.

During the event, students were able to engage in discussion with Deters and their peers to present topics of concern to them, such as the previous controversial statements made by Deters about

the death penalty and race.

The event was held in order to encourage dialogue about Deters' appointment and the conversations about sociopolitical issues that his appointment has sparked.

Xavier political science professor and director of the Take It On initiative Dr. Mack Mariani commented favorably on the event, observing that students were willing to both speak and listen on important issues.

"Part of the reason you see students coming to this is that they feel they want to be heard, and I know this doesn't answer all of that for everybody, but it's a step forward," Mariani said.

"I think students had a really good conversation," said senior Philosophy, Politics and the Public (PPP) and communications double major Abby White. White is the voting

fellow for Take It On and organized the event along with junior PPP and English double major Emily Croft, who is the dialogue fellow for Take It On.

"That is what I really wanted from this as a student for my fellow students – to be heard," White said.

Deters responded to concerns about the controversy on campus surrounding his appointment. "I think when people know me, they'll realize this is nonsensical," he said.

Rebuffing concerns about his appointment, Deters repeatedly expressed his dedication to the Xavier community and eagerness to begin his role.

"Come talk to me. If people want to come see me, then come see me," Deters responded when asked what students with concerns about



Photo courtesy of supremecourt.ohio.gov

his appointment should do.

Deters will take part in additional Take It On dialogue events. One such event will be held today for students in

the Philosophy, Politics and the Public Honors Program and another will be held next week for members of Xavier faculty.

# EPA Accelerates Proposed Emissions Standards

BY ADDISON BURKE  
Staff Writer

The Biden administration and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed two of the most ambitious new automobile pollution rules that would entail the largest U.S. vehicle emissions reduction plan ever last Wednesday.

The proposed regulation would set the strictest tailpipe emissions limit for the 2027 through 2032 model years and call for two-thirds of new vehicles sold in the U.S. to be electric by 2032, nearly ten times the current level of electric vehicle sales.

The EPA's proposed tailpipe standards would require 13% annual pollution cuts and a 56% reduction in projected fleet average greenhouse gas emissions over 2026 requirements by cars and other motor vehicles.

The EPA projects that the proposed 2027-2032 model year regulations would cut more than nine billion tons of CO2 emissions through 2055, which is more than double the total U.S. CO2 emissions last year.

The proposal aims to accelerate the transition from gas vehicles to electric and to continue the fight against climate

change by improving air quality for communities across the country. The EPA also estimates that it could create \$850 billion to \$1.6 trillion in indirect economic benefits through 2055.

While the proposal has received backlash from many auto workers and manufacturers, environmentalists have praised the Biden administration for acting upon issues caused by climate change, which Biden deemed a "moral imperative and economic imperative" that strongly influences his decision making.

The Biden administration hopes to finalize the new rules by early 2024 so that it would become more difficult for a future Congress or president to reverse them.

Laurence Tubiana, the chief executive of the European Climate Foundation, noted the benefits of the EPA's proposed action.

"This is confirmation to the world of the seriousness of the engagement of Joe Biden on climate change and keeps the U.S. as a front-runner on climate. It's resonating very well in Europe and the world," she stated.

This proposal has been driven by a report in 2021 from the International Energy Agency (IEA), which found that nations would have

to stop sales of new gasoline-powered cars by 2035 in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and keep average global temperature from increasing 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels.

The U.S. is the second largest producer of greenhouse gas emissions in the world behind China, so this proposal would create historic changes, especially since transportation accounts for about 27% of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S.

Attorney General Patrick Morrisey of West Virginia stated that a group of about a dozen Republican attorney

generals would work to fight this newest proposal.

"The administration is hell bent on destroying America's energy security and independence by making us dependent on resources and components that can come only from abroad," he noted.

Some auto workers and manufacturers also believe that the proposal could lead to job losses and lower profits for firms.

"There is no good reason why electric vehicle manufacturing can't be the gateway to the middle class that auto jobs have been for generations of union autoworkers," President of United Auto Workers

Shawn Fain stated.

Based on the current amount of electric vehicles sales, auto industry analysts believe it will be difficult for automakers and manufacturers to meet the projected sales. Many say that this goal is ambitious but achievable.

"I believe we can (meet the goal) because we're following the market trends. This is the future. The consumer demand is there. The markets are enabling it. The technologies are enabling it. And this isn't something we just started yesterday. This has been part of President Biden's vision from day one," EPA Administrator Michael Regan stated.



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

# Biden Commemorates Good Friday Agreement

BY PETER MELAHN  
Staff Writer

President Joe Biden visited Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland this past week in an unprecedented three-day visit to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement between the two nations.

Northern Ireland, a part of the United Kingdom (U.K.), and the Republic of Ireland were antagonists in a protracted series of conflicts that began in the late 1960s known

as "The Troubles." For more than 30 years, citizens of the two nations were involved in a period of bloodshed in which tensions between pro-English unionists and Irish nationalists flared into violent conflict.

The Good Friday Agreement was signed in 1998 by delegates from both Northern Ireland and the independent Republic of Ireland that provided a framework for the political settlement in the area and brought an end to the conflict.

Biden's visit can be under-

stood as divided into two distinct phases.

On April 12, Biden first arrived in Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland. The U.S. president's visit in the north focused primarily on establishing American support for the U.K.'s Windsor Framework — legislation proposed by the U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak intended to establish trade rules amongst Northern Ireland, the rest of the U.K. and the European Union (EU) in the wake of Brexit.

During his visit, Biden emphasized the significance of the Good Friday Agreement and peace between the two nations. "It took long, hard years of work to get to this

place," he stated in a speech in Belfast.

He also highlighted the significance of reaching trade agreements on the only land border between the U.K. and the EU.

"Today's Belfast is the beating heart of Northern Ireland and is poised to drive unprecedented economic opportunity," Biden said.

Later on Wednesday, Biden traveled to the Republic of Ireland — the southern, historically more nationalistic neighbor of Northern Ireland. His visit to the Republic was composed mostly of meetings with officials of the EU member nation.

Biden's two-part diplomatic visit was further com-

licated by the President's emphasis on his own cultural background and his identification with the Irish people.

During his visit in Belfast, Biden's remarks on his own Irish ancestry were met with different reactions from both pro-English unionists and nationalist republicans in Northern Ireland.

Biden's visit made little progress on changing the minds of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), which continues to staunchly oppose the Windsor Framework. As self-proclaimed loyalists to the U.K., the DUP has viewed the Irish identifying Biden's support with skepticism.

Conversely, Biden's apparent self-interest in his Irish roots and his emphasis on his Irish cultural background has helped his agenda resonate with nationalist republicans who take pride in their economic, political and cultural independence from the U.K.

Biden spent much of his trip visiting cultural and historical sites in the Republic of Ireland, drawing connection to his personal interests as well as political ones.

"(We are) welcoming home a President of the United States. Who would ever have thought we'd be doing that," Michael Farrow, a resident of Carlingford in the Republic of Ireland, remarked.



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org



Photo courtesy of geograph.ie

President Joe Biden, pictured left, visited Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland pictured right, during his diplomatic visit to Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland regarding the Good Friday Agreement last week.

# Not to Burst Your Bubble...

When we talk about the “Xavier Bubble,” we only ever really talk about what’s inside of it.

We talk about basketball courts, community ambassadors, vandalism incidents and other prominent issues on campus that could affect the outside world. We talk about opening the Xavier bubble to the outside world, letting the world beyond Xavier come to us. But we avoid talking about leaving campus, and through that, we avoid affecting real change beyond our privileged bubble.

In my four years with *NewsWire*, I have had the honor and opportunity to cover dozens of stories involving campus protests and controversies. The purpose and origin of this coverage is simple: *NewsWire* is a student newspaper, so we are tasked with covering issues that matter to students.

My time as an editor has largely been marked by a few major campus controversies: racist vandalism incidents on campus, protests for pro-choice voices on campus and

an overwhelmingly negative response to the arrival of Justice in Residence Joe Deters to campus. These issues have overwhelmed campus at times, spurring hateful language and campus conflicts.

I don’t disagree that these are important to our campus. We should ask our campus to embody anti-racism. We should allow every student on campus equal access to voice their opinions. We all deserve the right to scorn dumb ideas for fake campus faculty positions, and we deserve to say that racists probably shouldn’t be allowed to inhabit those positions.

When we hyperfocus on these issues, though, we just get sucked further into the Xavier bubble. It’s not wrong to protest on campus, but those protests ultimately affect so few people. We are supporting our causes — antiracism, the right to choose, the downfall of Joe Deters — but we are

supporting them in a social microcosm of privileged, majority-White 19-year-olds.

It’s time for Xavier students to broaden their horizons. As someone who has covered the same protests in the same 0.2 square-mile radius for four years, I have come to notice a pattern. The administration is not responding to student concerns and protests.

Students have protested to start a pro-choice club on campus since I entered Xavier and have repeatedly been denied one. Students have petitioned for Deters to be dismissed from his new position, and Deters remains here.

In my view, this demonstrates two things. First, we have an incredibly dedicated group of advocates and activists on campus, and they truly believe in their causes. Second, we are pouring so much time and energy into a university that will not listen nor respond.

This is not worth our time.

As Xavier students, we are doing ourselves and our larger community a disservice by ignoring the outside world and only protesting our own internal issues.

A university is not a democracy. The administration has no reason (beyond retention, a concern far secondary to recruitment) to respond to student protests. But at a city level, a state level and a federal level, we have representatives who are actually influenced by protests and have valid reason to please their constituents. These officials can also legislate, affecting change for not only Xavier’s tiny undergraduate class but vast swaths of citizens.

There’s nothing wrong with protesting on campus, and college is a great place to learn how to engage with activism and advocacy on a small scale. This is where we come to develop our voices, but it shouldn’t be the only place we’re using them.

If you’re not being heard on campus, go farther. Talk to community councils, city council, state legislators, any-

one who will actually listen. Don’t waste time yelling at a university administration who does not respect you enough to bother responding. Don’t let your passion dissipate. Don’t let yourself burn out. Take your advocacy where it will be valued, and make real change in spaces much larger and much more important than a single campus.

Xavier’s campus is not just a bubble; it is a void that’s absorbing the messages of a group of strong, eloquent activists whose voices deserve to be heard. Don’t let your voice echo on campus alone; make yourself heard where it counts.



Mo Juenger is the Editor-in-Chief for *NewsWire*. She is a senior history and Spanish double major from Kings Mill, Ohio.

## Mow Down Lawnmower Culture

What’s my current political stance, you ask?

End lawnmower culture.

Get rid of those ugly lawns covered in plain grass with small patches of dirt growing sparse sets of manicured flowers that are carefully picked and presented.

Large spaces that could be used for growing food and for sustaining natural flora and fauna become status symbols and wastes of water and land.

“A status symbol?” you exclaim, incredulous. But it’s true. The tradition of keeping manicured lawns instead of actual gardens comes from wealthy European landowners. Keeping a lawn with grass cut short and perfect required wealth to pay for servants to cut your lawn for you without a lawnmower.

Lawns were a show of wealth and status, even as the tradition moved to North America. But as industrialization spread across the

country, so too did the art of keeping a grass lawn as lawnmowers became accessible and a much easier way to maintain one’s yard.

It was a bragging point — lots of land that you can afford to just make pretty. You don’t have to grow anything on it. You don’t need it for your animals to graze. You just have it because you can have it.

What a waste.

Lawns certainly don’t help with native biodiversity. Lawns are a monoculture that deprive pollinators, animals and plants of habitats.

Don’t even get me started on weeds. Nature tries to heal itself with them — a species that protects soil and improves it. Control and complete destruction are not the same thing.

Actually, in urban areas, weeds are the most popular food source for pollinators, according to a study published by Cambridge University

Press.

The study also suggests “that urban areas have the potential to be important pollinator reservoirs, especially if both bloom and habitat heterogeneity are maintained and enhanced through sustainable urban planning.”

Destroying native biodiversity and wasting gallons of water on what are essentially little green sticks is ridiculous.

What’s important — and more beautiful — are gardens. Gardens with vegetables and herbs and the occasional weed. Or clover lawns, which add nitrogen to soil and need way less water. Habitat gardening — which utilizes small trees, shrubs, some plants — gives space and sustenance to animals. Planting wildflowers will bring pollinators. Moss

lawns are another alternative. They keep soil moist and prevent its erosion while even decreasing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. And moss will grow basically anywhere!

The point is that grass lawns are boring. Wow! Here’s a patch of grass! It’s so visually interesting and helpful to the environment and ecosystem!

Not.

Since when did wealthy European landowners (especially the French) decide for us that our own households would be marked and defined by useless swaths of grass? If I remember my history correctly, the wealthy French were beheaded for being so wealthy — and for being so snobbish about it.

I’m not arguing that we should go around beheading those with grass lawns who

refuse to acknowledge the benefits of giving up that grass lawn — I’m just saying we should consider it.

Not seriously, of course, but we should definitely shame them into changing their lawns into something useful and, to be frank, far more gorgeous and interesting! Show some personality! Grow your own food! Save the bees!

There are so many other options — we don’t have to resort to the tasteless legacies of the European elite and what they inspire. Vive la révolution contre le gazon!



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# Let's Take a Detour to Deter Deters

We've been told it's about dialogue. We've been told to keep an open mind. We've been told that Joe Deters is here to push us and force us to think about difficult things and that this is really for educational value. We've been told to accept Deters' new role on this campus because it's ultimately for our benefit.

Well, it's now clear that these claims are not true. This past week, a number of my classmates and I met with Joe Deters to engage in an event focused on dialogue and discussion.

While I've made my position on Xavier offering Deters a role pretty clear, I decided to go into this meeting with an open mind. I was ready and willing to hear the justice out, listen to what he had to say and hope that he would be willing to talk openly about the rhetoric he's used throughout his career.

I left this meeting disappointed. We asked Justice Deters some tough questions. We asked him uncomfortable questions. While doing this, we hoped he would engage

with, hear us out and be willing to embrace growth.

That did not happen. Deters heard from a number of students who provided insightful comments about the power of language and why some of the rhetoric the justice has engaged in throughout his storied career causes harm.

His response? None. Justice Deters proved unwilling to change his rhetoric or be more careful when choosing his words.

Language has power. The words we choose matter.

Justice Deters has a long history of using the term "thugs." We questioned him on this repeatedly during our meeting last week, and he pushed back every time.

By definition, "thug" is intended to refer to a violent person or a person who has committed a crime. The word has now become blurred, becoming a coded word used to discreetly reference Black people.

When looking to the media, we see clear differences in how Black protestors

("thugs") versus White protestors ("rowdy") are referred to.

Illya Davis, a philosophy professor at Morehouse College, said that the usage of "thug" is a substitution for more blatant and obvious racial slurs.

"It seems almost that people with a certain disdain can get across a sentiment to us. They can get away with saying 'thug' under the guise that it is the closest they can get without aborting their social status," Davis said.

When asked about this language and why he couldn't simply be careful when choosing his words, Deters told us that he was not interested in changing his vocabulary or rhetoric.

The decision to dismiss the concerns of students, including many students of color, was disrespectful and showed Justice Deters to be ignorant and defensive at best and openly and willingly promoting racist rhetoric at worst.

We do not need to entertain racism. Dialogue does not include embracing racist rhet-

oric. In fact, if Xavier intends to be a safe space for dialogue to exist, it cannot allow for racist ideas and rhetoric to persist unfettered.

If we want students and faculty to feel that they can effectively engage in dialogue, then we must first create the spaces to allow for that. Deters does the exact opposite.

His presence on our campus and in our communities defies Jesuit values.

Reflection requires us to consider the world around us. Justice Deters has demonstrated an unwillingness to reflect on the harm his words cause.

Discernment requires us to consider feelings and rational thought in decision-making and contributions to the world around us, including marginalized populations.

Solidarity and kinship require us to stand in solidarity with and for marginalized communities, including the communities Deters spent decades imprisoning and destroying.

Service rooted in justice and love requires us to stand

with those who suffer from injustices, including the very people Deters dehumanizes and describes as "thugs."

Cura personalis requires us to care for the whole person. To do so, we must care for those in our community affected by racist rhetoric.

Magis requires us to recognize the moral good, which necessitates that we acknowledge the harm of racist rhetoric and action.

Joe Deters should not be allowed to be a part of our campus community, and the university must make clear that his rhetoric will not be tolerated.



Ethan Nichols is the World News Editor for *NewsWire*. He is a sophomore Philosophy, Politics and the Public and English double major from Cincinnati.

## NIMBY No More

I get that gentrification really sucks, especially when it prices out longtime residents, but building new housing regardless is nearly always worth it.

I am a massive nerd for urban planning, and I have been advocating for increasing housing density and walkability in cities for the past couple of years. I find the NIMBY — "Not in my backyard" — crowd of people that oppose new housing developments to be pretty insufferable.

They always use the same argument: "I support building new housing, just not in my neighborhood. It would ruin the character!"

But there's a new type of NIMBY on the block, and they're actually a bigger roadblock to well-planned cities than the traditional suburban homeowner.

I present to you the virtue-signaling liberal. These people have begun to oppose new developments, claiming they aren't good enough and would change the neighbor-

hood too much, which is fine in principle.

I have critiqued many proposed housing and neighborhood revitalization projects over the years. I still want the developments to happen, while the liberal NIMBY would say something like "I support building new housing, but only if 100% of the units are subsidized housing, and only if it won't raise the rents of current neighborhood residents." This is a noble idea, but unfortunately it's a very naïve one.

Gatekeeping housing won't save your neighborhood from gentrification; it'll just make traffic worse. New people are going to move to the neighborhood regardless, so you might as well build new housing to hold them.

In Denver, there was a citywide vote on whether the city should rezone a long-closed golf course right by a light rail station in order to build new apartment buildings. After a fierce campaign, the opposing side

won with the classic NIMBY crowd of old people, White homeowners and landlords opposing the project. An additional group aligned with the Democratic Socialists of America said they oppose the project because it was in a working class neighborhood and not all of the units would be affordable.

Housing that isn't very affordable is still better than a defunct golf course that isn't open to the public with zero units of housing.

A similar situation happened in Harlem in New York. Many left-wing groups opposed building a new apartment complex on a vacant lot because they feared gentrification of the area. So instead of building housing, the city decided to turn the lot into a Greyhound Bus depot, which, again, has zero units of housing.

The best way to lower rent across the board is to just build a critical mass of housing in the areas people want to live. Obviously I don't want to displace any-

one from the areas they grew up in or love, but there's a reason rent is expensive, and it's because we stopped building dense housing.

Here are some policy proposals that would actually help combat the gentrification everyone is afraid of.

First off, there is rent control. If you've been living at the same address for more than five to 10 years, your rent should be kept at the same rate. This would benefit longtime residents and allow them to stay in the neighborhoods they love.

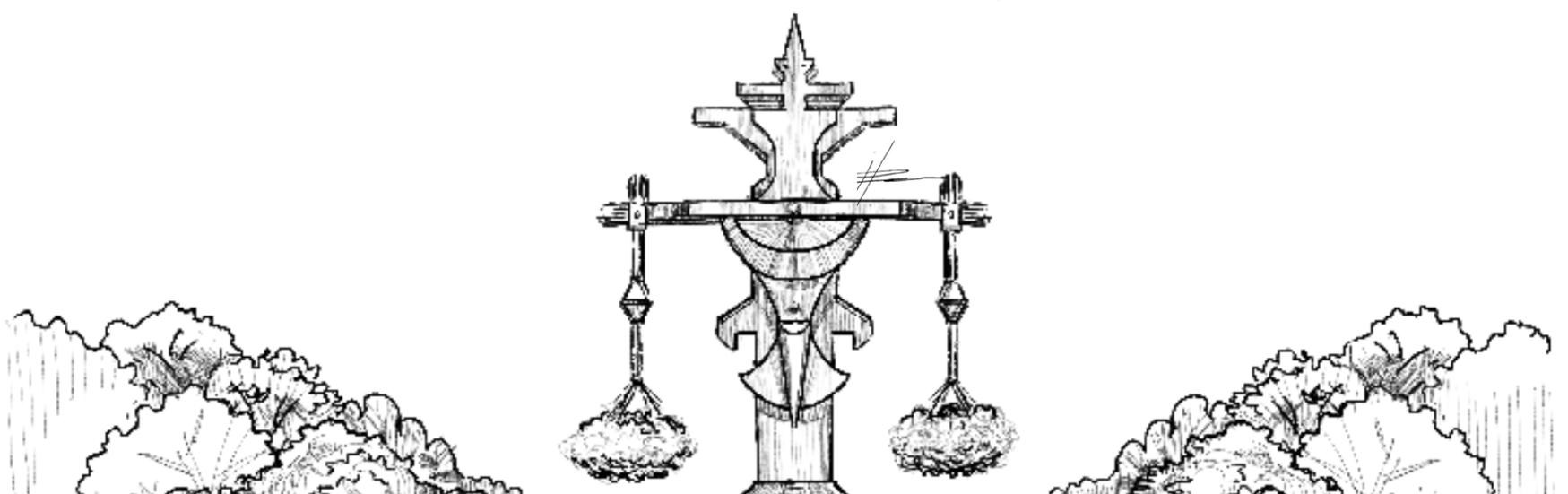
Second, and the craziest policy proposal of them all, is a Land Value Tax (LVT) as a replacement for property tax. LVT is a tax based on the fact that land is finite, so therefore land in cities and other prime locations is worth more than land in rural or suburban areas. This also works as a form of wealth redistribution since landowners in cities tend to be rich and will be taxed accordingly if they're just sitting on valuable empty lots.

Some might think that landowners would just pass this tax on to their tenants through raising rent, but this is not the case, because landlords already charge you the maximum amount they can. If they raise it any higher, they wouldn't be able to keep any tenants.

I got a C in my microeconomics course, so I don't understand all the intricacies, but economists who are much smarter than me such as Adam Smith and John Maynard Keynes both describe it as "the perfect tax." The idea of implementing "the perfect tax" has been around since the mid 1800s, but better late than never.



Sebastian Aguilar is the Show Manager for *NewsWire*. He is a senior political science major from Northbrook, Illinois.



# Chambers Takes the Helm of Xavier WBB

*Along with assistants Kelly and Sanders, Chambers looks to revive women's hoops*

BY ETHAN NICHOLS  
World News Editor

Xavier women's basketball recently hired a new head coach, Billi Chambers, after parting ways with former Head Coach Melanie Moore.

"We are thrilled to announce Billi as the new leader of our women's basketball program. Through our national search, she distinguished herself among our list of talented candidates," Vice President of Administration and Director of Athletics Greg Christopher said.

Chambers joins Xavier as the ninth head coach in the program's history, after coaching at Iona University from 2013-2023, where she led the program to NCAA tournament appearances in 2016 and 2023.

During her time with the Gaels, the team earned two Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Championships (2013-2014, 2022-2023) and two conference tournament titles (2016 and 2023). Chambers had an overall record of 141-153 and a conference record of 102-85 with Iona.

Chambers holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Hofstra University (2003) and a master's degree in psychology from Adelphi University (2005). She played



Photo courtesy of goxavier.com

**Coach Billi Chambers joins the Xavier women's basketball lineage after a ten-year odyssey at Iona. In her time leading the Gaels, the program made its first-ever NCAA tournament appearance.**

in 79 games at Hofstra from 1999-03.

Before joining Iona in 2013, Chambers worked as an assistant coach for Virginia Tech from 2011-2013 and at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County from 2008-2011.

"I am excited to be the new head women's basketball coach at Xavier. Xavier plays in one of the premier college basketball conferences in the country and has a rich history of success... I can't wait to coach in the Big East and compete for conference championships," Chambers said.

Iona Director of Athletics

Matthew Glovaski praised Chambers for her efforts in New Rochelle, New York.

"Coach Chambers guided our program to new heights during her tenure, bringing home a pair of MAAC Championships, the first in school history. We are incredibly grateful to Coach Chambers for her leadership and dedication to our program and all she has done to elevate Iona women's basketball to where it is now. We wish Coach Chambers the very best in this exciting new chapter as she moves on to a well-deserved opportunity in the Big East," Glovaski said.

Following a dismal season in which the Muskies finished 7-23 and without an NCAA appearance in more than a decade, Chambers says she will "work relentlessly to restore this program to excellence both on and off the court."

Moore served as head coach from 2019-2023, in which she compiled a 24-81 record (8-60 in the Big East). During her time as head coach, 16 players earned Academic All-Big East Honors.

Since being hired on April 5, Chambers has procured the assistance of longtime accomplice Ashlee Kelly and Brianna Sanders, who joined

the Chambers coaching parliament last season after spending five seasons at the University of Akron.

Kelly had been been Chambers other half at Iona for the past 14 seasons, serving as associate head coach; she will envelop that very role at Xavier for the next season. The fourth highest scorer in Quinnipiac women's basketball history, Kelly has served as a head coach at Mercy College in Youngstown, In addition to serving as head coach of the women's basketball program from 2006-2009, Kelly served as assistant director of athletics for student services from 2006-2008.

Before joining forces with Chambers at Iona, Sanders was a key facet of Zips women's basketball at the University of Akron from 2017-2022.

Preceding her move to Akron was a stint at Chattanooga as director of basketball operations from 2014-2017; the Mocs qualified for the NCAA tournament three times in her four year reign, during which the program amassed a 74-23 record. As a player, Sanders suited up as an Ohio State Buckeye from 2009-2011; her playing career was cut short due to injury, but she evolved into a student assistant in Columbus.

## Xavier Athletics Hosts the Seventh Annual XSPYs Awards

*Xavier's highest-achieving competitors are celebrated with banquet and awards*

BY CLARE MCKINLEY  
Staff Writer

Last Wednesday, Xavier athletes and coaches dressed to the nines and gathered in Cintas Center to celebrate the seventh annual XSPY awards.

A play on ABC's ESPY awards, the XSPY awards are an annual celebration hosted by the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee to honor and appreciate the accomplishments of student athletes both on and off the field. The winners are decided based on votes from their peers, and the accolades can range from Best Player to Female and Male Athletes of the Year.

The event festivities kicked off in Cintas at 8 p.m. and lasted until around 10:30 p.m. Upon arrival, athletes were welcomed by a small entourage of paparazzi looking for a photo op and a blue carpet rolled out to greet them. This year's pool of winners was selected from ten different sports and honor the students' amazing athletic accomplishments, as well as commemorate their contributions to the Xavier community. These presst awards include The Musketeer Magis Award, The Musketeer Medal of Honor and The Benjamin Allen Student-Athlete

Leadership Award.

Every year, The Musketeer Magis Award is given to a student who embodies all aspects of the Jesuit value. This student is someone who strives for excellence and seeks out doing more for the common good of others. This year's recipient was Courtney Prenger, a forward on the women's basketball team.

The winners of the Musketeer Medal of Honor were Emma McMyler from women's golf and Andrew Martin from men's swimming. These medals are awarded to the female and male students who exceed expectations in scholarship, athletics, leadership and service while committing to bettering the Xavier community.

The Benjamin Allen Student-Athlete Leadership Award was collected by Jon Bernard from the men's swim team. This award is given to someone who greatly impacts all of Xavier and has succeeded in making a holistic impact on the community with ingenuity, leadership and determination.

McMyler also won the award for Female Athlete of the Year. While Cole Jensen from the men's soccer team and Martin from the men's



Photo courtesy of goxavier.com

swim team were caught in a gridlock for Male Athlete of the year and tied.

Carrigan O'Reilly from the volleyball team and Jack Housinger from the baseball team won the Rev. Paul O'Connor Award. This year's Thomas Sedler Awards were won by Pol Hernandez from the men's soccer team and Julianne Libler from the women's swim team.

Sean Miller, in his homecoming season and the men's basketball team won Coach

of the Year and Team of the Year, respectively. Desmond Claude won Male Rookie of the Year and Jack Nunge winning Best Play for his game-winning block against Kennesaw State in the NCAA Tournament. This year's men's hoops squad ended a four-year tourney drought for the program.

Other notable awards include the women's soccer team winning Best Upset for their 4-1 2OT win at Tennessee in the NCAA Tourna-

ment. Female Rookie of the Year was won by Natalie Bain, a defender from the women's soccer team, and Comeback Athlete of the Year was won by Cole Jensen, who also was named goalkeeper of the year by the Big East. Additionally, Best Single Game Performance was won by Luke Franzoni during the Baseball Team's game vs. Creighton in Big East Tournament and his teammate Jack Housinger took home the award for best teammate.

# Boygenius' Record is Pure Genius

BY GRACE HAMILTON  
Staff Writer

The boys are back in town, and they're better than ever.

The second album from boygenius, — the supergroup comprised of Julien Baker, Phoebe Bridgers and Lucy Dacus — simply titled *the record*, is a dazzling comeback. The three showcase their impeccable writing capabilities through songs ranging from mournful apologies to screamed demands for money.

This project is a love letter from the three women to each other, beginning with the first song, "Without You Without Them." Led by Dacus, the song establishes the album as a monument to the respect that the three musicians have for one another. "Who would I be without you?" Dacus asks, backed by Bridgers and Baker.

The real question is: Who would I be without boygenius?

After the song concludes, we are given whiplash in the best way possible with "\$20," one of my personal favorites. This is where it becomes clear that the influence of



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

each artist is present and used throughout the entire album, as Baker's heavier, grungier rock sound strongly comes through, while still cultivating a central theme and feeling.

Baker told Rolling Stone that the song is about the "wanting-to-poke-the-bear impulse that I'm trying to mitigate... It started to remind me of the tension between unrest and discontent with your life individually and the world writ large as a child."

Also, if Phoebe Bridgers

screamed at me to give her \$20, I would happily comply.

But overall, this album truly is, in a word, tender. "If you rewrite your life, can I still play a part?" Dacus asks on "We're in Love."

"I just wanna know who broke your nose / figure out where they live / so I can kick their teeth in," Bridgers confesses in "Revolution 0." In "Anti-Curse," Baker croons, "Was anyone ever so young?"

Tender. It is the love letter of all love letters.

And don't you dare call it sad. Dacus responded to a

question from Rolling Stone about her, Baker and Bridgers being defined as "sad girls."

"I just want me and my friends to survive," she said.

"When you internalize it, your personality is sadness, which is a lot of the time tied to depression, which a lot of the time is tied to detachment from life... And it's not true. Shut up. I try to write more nuanced things than that," she continued.

Their music may have melancholy notes and chords, but this album proves that boygenius is so much more than sad girls. They are three friends who found each other amidst all the noise, and who understand one another — that kind of understanding that only comes when you feel that you're able to see someone's soul and love it despite the baggage that may come with it.

*The record* hits expectations out of the park and straight into the faces of anyone who dares to reduce boygenius to "sad girls." They aren't one-trick ponies here to make girls cry to their soulful music about heartbreak and long-

lost childhoods.

I mean, they do that, too. But they also do a lot more.

*The record* is about relationships where you make a person so much more than they are and the disappointment that follows when that's revealed. It's about discontent and dissatisfaction. It's about the things we wish we could talk about with the people we love and resigning ourselves to accepting the lies they, and we, tell.

It's also about the love you have for your friends and the amazing gift that is. It's about wanting to heal and move on from the things and the people that hurt you.

To close the album, Bridgers, Baker and Dacus sing together on "Letter to an Old Poet," familiar to fans of "Me & My Dog," from boygenius' first album. Together, they say, "I wanna be happy / I'm ready to walk into my room without lookin' for you / I'll go up to the top of our building / and think of my dog when I see a full moon."

These three know exactly what they're doing to us, and I, for one, am not complaining.

## Sashay Away: RPDR Season Finale Makes Herstory

BY LANEY KONZ  
Staff Writer

When life is a drag, nothing spruces up a monotonous day like watching energizing lip syncs, bold death drops and sickening artistry and visuals all in one. Luckily, *RuPaul's Drag Race* premiered another finale last Friday that encompasses all of the above.

On April 14, RuPaul crowned Sasha Colby as America's next reigning drag superstar, adding her to a long line of drag royalty and making her a standout in *Drag Race* history — or, rather, — herstory.

After a season full of letting loose, trotting and walking ducks, the anticipation leading up to the finale was both taut and boisterous. The finalists of season 15 were Sasha Colby, Anetra, Luxx Noir London and Mistress Isabelle Brooks.

During the season, Luxx

and Mistress received a lot of backlash from *Drag Race* fans for their outspokenness. Both Luxx and Mistress had gone heel-to-heel with contestant Loosey LaDuca on numerous occasions, calling her out for not being transparent and fake. However, fans felt that they were being harsh on Loosey and quickly fled to social media to sound off about their feelings.

This isn't a unique occurrence for *Drag Race* — oftentimes, one or two queens will receive what many call "a bad edit," despite RuPaul's insistence that the show is never misrepresentative of the truth. Queens of color have historically been on the receiving end of the majority of this hate.

Each finalist performed a routine to a personalized song during the finale written and recorded for each of their drag personas. Luxx performed a voguing, fashionis-

ta piece that reflected her keen eye for aesthetics; Mistress performed a routine that nodded to her catchphrase that "drag delusion" had infected the cast of season 15; Anetra lip synced to a song paying homage to her journey as a drag artist and person; and Sasha honed in on her extensive repertoire.

This exciting series of lip syncs was followed by the crowning of season 15's Miss Congeniality, Malaysia Babydoll Foxx. Miss Congeniality is the award given to the kindest queen on set, as voted by the rest of the cast.

The Lip Sync for the Crown was between Sasha Colby and Anetra to "Knock on Wood" by Amii Stewart. Anetra had proven herself time and time again as a lip-sync assassin during the season. Her iconic duck walk move — which was inspired by the Ballroom Scene — and her high energy dynamics as a performer earned her a lot of credit from both the cast and the judges' panel. It was no surprise to fans, then, that the final lip-sync was going to be one to remember.

Anetra shined through during the lip-sync with her raw emotion and pull-away heart attachment on her catsuit, which embodied her ability to tug at the heart strings of fans and the judges.

However, Sasha Colby's several Reveals, intense energy and polished performance ultimately sealed the deal, wrapping up her four-win season with the crown and the



BY KYRA HUDSON  
Staff Writer

- **Kim Kardashian and Emma Roberts are expected to star in the next season of *American Horror Story* (April 11).**
- **Kylie Jenner and Timothée Chalamet sparked romance rumors (April 14).**
- **Camila Cabello and Shawn Mendes were spotted kissing at Coachella (April 16).**
- **The live reunion of Netflix's *Love is Blind* failed to air (April 16).**

\$200,000 cash prize.

Amidst the ongoing, persistent attacks on the drag and transgender communities in the U.S., the finale of season 15 held extreme weight with audiences, especially as the show's popularity and outreach grows.

Sasha Colby not only made herstory as the first Native Hawaiian to win *Drag Race*, but she also joins three other queens as the only transgender contestants to win the show.

The message being project-

ed by crowning Sasha Colby has been seen as one of support and celebration of the trans community.

In her final speech, Sasha Colby dedicated her win to the trans community.

"This goes to every trans person past, present and future," she said.

Combined with the show's segment rallying behind drag artists and the LGBTQ+ community, the season 15 finale of *RuPaul's Drag Race* sends a message that the fight for equality will not be abated.



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

# I'm So Blue All The Time

BY RYAN HULLIGAN, STAFF WRITER

Farewell, seasonal depression. You've been good to me. You taught me love, loss, all of the lyrics to "Savior Complex" by Phoebe Bridgers, and the value of ghosting your friends for weeks at a time and then randomly showing up again like it never happened. I don't think I'm ready to see you leave. Something about being able to blame it on the weather is comforting to me (I do not want to hold myself accountable literally ever). Seasonal depression is my Coachella, truthfully. You get to close your eyes in the dark -usually at 1 p.m. for me- and listen to Frank Ocean, Alex G and the like. I'm going to miss the thrill of wondering if I'm going to be able to get out of bed for class the next day, deal with people or even stand up without crying. Lowkey I'm spilling my business to y'all right now. Hold on, let me cook. Last week, I accidentally slept for 12 hours and missed all of my classes that day. But looking back, I'm starting to realize that maybe the real classes were the friends we made along the way. Oh God, okay, me and this word count are fighting each other right now. Let me stop breaking the fourth wall, sorry.

Around two coherent thoughts into this article, I'm starting my journey of what I think regular depression will be like because maybe it isn't as bad as we think. We're going to be tan, some of us will be home with our best friends in the hometown we love so dearly and that's good for y'all, but it's just not me, though. Regular depression is going to consist of me bitching to my friends from back home about how I can't stand being in my hometown and how I miss Xavier, and then we'll all decide to go to the local Sonic to get a slushie in our friends' Jeep and someone will inevitably say, "We're on some serious summer vibes right now," but the vibe is actually just leaving our houses for the first time that day. So yeah, maybe regular depression is pretty bad and now I have anxiety thinking about going home for the summer, but hey, our acne is gonna go away once we get some sun, and we're gonna be tan. So, a win is a win or something like that.



**Aries:** You are "Garden Song," for sure. You just want somebody to love.



**Libra:** Your energy is giving "ICU." You hate catching feelings.



**Taurus:** You are "Demi Moore" without a doubt. I just KNOW you're a *Stranger In The Alps* stan.



**Scorpio:** You are "Halloween." You can be anything, just don't be sad forever, okay?



**Gemini:** You are "Savior Complex." You think you're incapable of love, but you're definitely not.



**Sagittarius:** You are "Funeral." Well Jesus Christ, maybe be something other than blue today. Give pink a try.



**Cancer:** This is technically a cover, but you are "The Gold." Don't let anyone become your ceiling.



**Capricorn:** You are "Would You Rather." I know you're trying to make it work out, but maybe it isn't supposed to.



**Leo:** This is a deep cut, but you are Phoebe's cover of "Prayer in Open D" by Emmylou Harris.



**Aquarius:** You are "Motion Sickness." You try not to feel very often, but when you do, you feel big things.



**Virgo:** You are "Graceland Too," a secret delicate simp walking among us.



**Pisces:** You are "I Know the End." Just because you're the last horoscope on my list. Scream it out though, girl.



COMIC (LEFT) BY GRIFFIN BRAMMER, STAFF WRITER

COMIC (BELOW) BY BRIANA DUNN, STAFF WRITER

