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The Class of 2027 by the Numbers

Office of Institutional Research releases annual student demographics

1,250
STUDENTS IN
THE CLASS OF
2027

These Musketeers were selected from a group of over 16,000 applicants — the largest applicant pool in Xavier history.

Over half of the Class of 2027 is from outside Ohio. The states with the greatest representation in the first-year class are Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky and New York.

47
HOME STATES

21
COUNTRIES
ACROSS THE
GLOBE

International students have a larger presence in the Class of 2027 than in last year's incoming class, which had a total of 18 international students.



The Class of 2027 is more diverse than the Class of 2026. 25% of last year's incoming class identify as students of color.

31%
IDENTIFY AS
STUDENTS OF
COLOR

27%
IDENTIFY AS FIRST-
GENERATION
STUDENTS

This class marks an increase in the number of students who are the first in their family to attend university. 20% of last year's incoming students identified as first-generation.



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Bellarmino Chapel is receiving a new Head Pastor: Father Paul Licktieg, S.J.



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Ohio voters decisively vote against a proposed constitutional amendment.



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Cincinnati hosts tennis greats from around the world at the Western & Southern Open.



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Back Page Editor Kayla Ross has much to say about this year's incoming class.



Bellarmino Welcomes New Pastor

This September, Father Paul Licktieg, S.J. will take over as Head Pastor of Bellarmine

BY BEN DICKISON
Sports Editor

As the leaves meet the ground this winter, Bellarmine Chapel will become the nest of a former Blue Jay. On Dec. 3, 2023, the Feast Day of Saint Francis Xavier, Creighton University graduate Father Paul Licktieg, S.J. will officially assume the role of Head Pastor of Bellarmine Chapel. He will retain his role as Pastor at St. Xavier Parish in downtown Cincinnati.

Former Bellarmine Chapel Head Pastor Fr. Eric Sundrup, S.J. will undertake the role of University Chaplain for Xavier, which is designed to minister specifically to current Musketeers. Fr. Licktieg is designated to serve in an administrative role at both Bellarmine and St. Xavier, serving the parishioners coming from the communities surrounding Xavier and celebrating the 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Masses each Sunday.

Despite conducting defined, separate roles, the “opportunity for overlap” between Sundrup and himself is enticing to Licktieg, who “adores every opportunity to say Mass

for (Xavier students) and ask those big questions (regarding Catholic faith).”

Licktieg is in his 11th year as an ordained man of the cloth. During his time at Creighton, Licktieg was pursuing degrees in theatre and theology.

He originally wanted to be a studio artist due to his fascination with the work of Pablo

Picasso

“I was mistakenly nominated to Creighton’s Jesuit Humanities Program,” he said.

Father was startled on the first day of class when “out of the five men, (he) was the only one who was not a Jesuit.”

After completing his bachelor’s degree at Creighton and finishing the Jesuit humanities program, he attended Ford-

ham University, another Jesuit University, where he earned an MA in Pastoral Counseling and Spiritual Care. He then studied Christology at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, Calif.

Since his ordination, Licktieg has become renowned for his writing in publications such as the Jesuit Post and Huffington Post.

At Bellarmine, Father seeks to emphasize the Jesuit value of magis, known to Xavier students as the Latin term for “more.” Licktieg defines the term more specifically as “finding a real sort of sustenance in the daily experience of our lives.”

One way to achieve this depth, especially on Sundays, is to change the “fact that about 10 percent of the student population at Xavier goes to church every Sunday,” he said.

Engaging the student body in Mass will take priority over structural changes to Mass or the Chapel itself under Licktieg’s guidance. He wants to extend his ear to any parishioner, student, alumni or community member who senses a need for more in their daily experience and seeks to make Bellarmine “a place where people can engage in real questions of faith that they don’t stop seeking until they get an answer that makes sense.”

Bellarmino will also welcome Father Damien Torres-Botello, S.J. as a Parochial Vicar to assist with administrative operations.



Photo courtesy of @xavieruniversity on Instagram

Father Paul Licktieg, S.J. will take on the role of Head Pastor of Bellarmine Chapel and will serve local parishioners in the community surrounding Xavier leading the 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Masses.

Photo-op: The Class of 2027 Reflects on Manresa

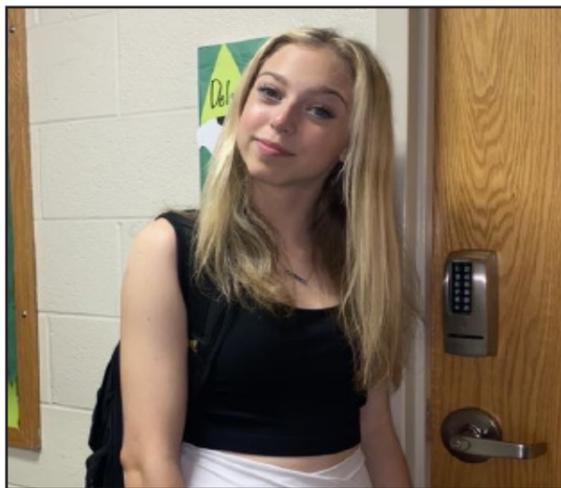
BY JACKSON HARE
Campus News Editor

This school year, Xavier has welcomed 1,250 new students making up the Class of 2027.

With the theme of “On Our Block,” from Aug. 17-20, Manresa engaged first-year students in a four-day experience filled with various activities in order to acquaint them with their new home on campus and to begin their transition to college life. First-year students have shared their thoughts on the experience.



Photo courtesy of @xavieruniversity on Instagram

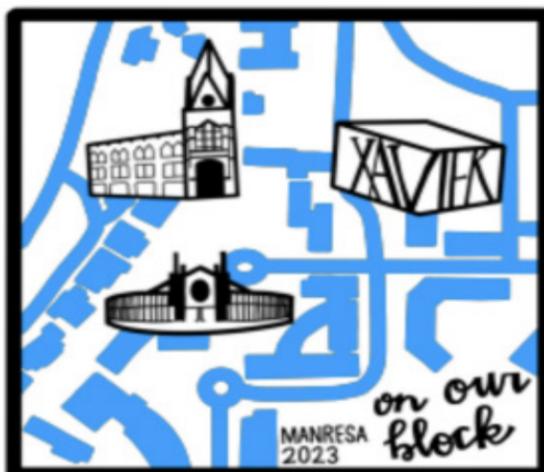


News wire photo courtesy of Ben Dickison

“I loved Manresa and everyone on the leadership committee. I made so many friends already and really got to immerse myself in campus and learn more about the Xavier community.

The experience made me even more excited for the next 4 years as a Musketeer and all the opportunities yet to come. I hope to be a Manresa leader in the future and impact others the way my leaders impacted me.”

—Maddy Johns, nursing major



News wire photo by Griffin Brammer

“Manresa was the support new students need to transition to college.”

— George Butzer, business undecided major



News wire photo by Griffin Brammer

“Manresa helped me make new friends and meet people I wouldn’t have met on my own.”

—Zoe Carlson, chemical science major

Ohio Issue 1 Rejected in Special Election

BY ADDISON BURKE
Staff Writer

On Aug. 8, Ohio voters rejected a Republican-supported measure that would have increased the number of votes needed for a new state constitutional amendment to pass.

The defeat of the proposition, known as Issue 1, keeps in place a simple majority in order to threshold for passing future state constitutional amendments, rather than the 60% supermajority presented.

The failed measure also proposed that citizens of the state who wanted to amend the state constitution or create a new law would have to obtain signatures from five percent of voters from all 88 counties, increasing it from the current requirement of 44 counties in order to get propositions on the ballot.

More than 3 million people voted on Issue 1, and the proposal ultimately failed, as around 1.74 million Ohioans, or 57% of the total voters, voted no. Locally, Hamilton County voted no on Issue 1 with 67% of the vote.

Supporters of Issue 1, including Republican leaders of the state legislature, stated that the higher bar for approving amendments would have protected Ohio's constitution from external special interest



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

Millions of Ohio voters casted their ballots on Issue 1 this August. The measure, which would have raised the threshold for passing proposed state constitutional amendments to 60%, ultimately failed.

groups.

In January, Ohio Republicans enacted a law that removed August special elections from the calendar. But a few months later, as reproductive rights groups were close to proposing their own constitutional amendment on the ballot for November, Republicans in the state legislature rescheduled an August election to vote on Issue 1. Only 18 states held special elections this August.

David Niven, a professor

of political science at the University of Cincinnati, noted the importance of the special election.

"An awful lot of ballot questions come and go. This is one that has lasting consequences," he stated.

"If this would have passed it would have changed the rules for every question and every issue that voters care about, so Issue 1 was first and foremost a basic question of democracy if majorities are going to win if we put ques-

tions on the ballot," Niven said.

Issue 1 was proposed by Republican State Representative Brian Stewart and Secretary of State Frank LaRose. Stewart and LaRose proposed this issue to make it harder to pass future constitutional amendments, especially those surrounding controversial issues like abortion.

This election marked the latest statewide battle over access to abortion after the Supreme Court overturned

Roe v. Wade last year. Advocacy groups on both sides of the issue spent millions of dollars in advertising leading up to the special election.

Ohio voters will now have the chance to decide on a constitutional amendment that would ensure access to reproductive healthcare like abortions, contraception, and in vitro fertilization during the November election. After this special election's results, many other groups, such as those supporting a higher minimum wage, are fighting to get their proposed amendments on future ballots.

There have been 76 bills introduced this year across the country aiming to raise thresholds for state constitutional amendments. In June, South Dakota voters rejected a bid to raise the threshold for ballot measures to 60%.

President Joe Biden commended the results in a written statement released on the election night surrounding Issue 1.

"This measure was a blatant attempt to weaken voters' voices and further erode the freedom of women to make their own health care decisions," he said.

"Ohioans spoke loud and clear, and tonight democracy won," Biden added.

Extreme Weather Sets Records and Grips Globe

BY PETER MELAHN
Staff Writer

An unprecedented degree of scorching heat and raging floods continues to plummet major parts of the world into dangerous conditions. Millions of people across the globe are experiencing the effects of climate change throughout this summer.

The latter half of July saw record-breaking temperatures as well as historic lows in many cities around the world. Preliminary data from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) shows that the Earth recorded what were likely its hottest days in modern history in the early half of July after the planet's hot-

test June ever.

The cyclical weather pattern El Niño, along with emissions of heat-trapping gasses, are believed to have exacerbated the latest events, as it comes from the outset of warmer sea temperatures. However, scientists have forewarned that the situations observed throughout the globe will not go away when El Niño departs.

"We are in uncharted territory, and we can expect more records to fall as El Niño develops further and these impacts will extend into 2024. This is worrying news for the planet," Christopher Hewitt, the head of international climate services for the WMO,

said. The organization warned of increased risk of death to extreme weather events in mid-July.

As the skies of the Midwest became clouded by soot and smoke, the realities of climate change became ever visible for many Americans. For much of the summer, cities such as New York City, Chicago, Toronto and Detroit experienced some of the most polluted air on Earth because of smoke drifting from Canadian wildfires.

In July, flash flooding in the Northeastern U.S., particularly in Vermont and parts of upstate New York, have paralleled record flooding in India from lingering monsoon rains.

In recent weeks, a so-called heat dome has scorched the central and western parts of the U.S. and set new temperature records throughout those parts of the country. In addition to those already dwelling in American cities, it is reported that more than 100 migrants have died from heat at and around the U.S.-Mexico border so far this year.

Intensifying heat waves in Europe, the Middle East and China have also left many adapting to the effects of climate change.

In the past two weeks, Maui, Hawaii has experienced historic fires. The death toll continues to rise with most

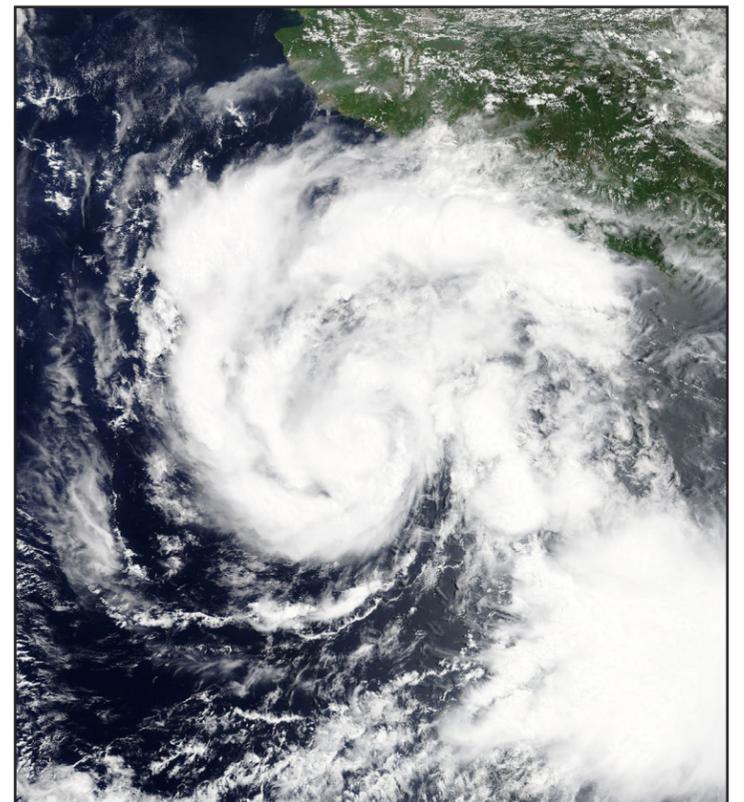


Photo courtesy of flickr.com

People throughout the world are continuing to face the effects of ongoing extreme weather events, including wildfires in Canada and flooding from Hurricane Hilary.

recent counts topping 100.

Additionally, Hurricane Hilary made landfall in California early this week while being downgraded to a post-tropical cyclone classification.

In the wake of a summer of harsh climate disasters which appear to be getting more and more frequent, scientists fear that this year's unexpected climate change-related events

have been more violent and devastating than what was once expected.

When explaining how rising water temperatures affect coral reefs off the coast of Florida, ecologist Derek Manzello from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration summarized peoples' fears.

"We're entering uncharted territories," he said.



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

More on Deters at 6

If you picked up a copy of *NewsWire's* Manresa Edition last week — which I hope you did — you may have noticed a letter on page 11 from Ohio Supreme Court Justice and Xavier's new "Justice in Residence" Joe Deters.

Now, many of you may not know who Deters is or what the "controversy" he referenced in this letter was all about.

Well, I'd like to lay some of that out for you.

Back in March, it was announced that Xavier would be bringing Deters onto campus to "participate in various class sessions. He will also take part in events outside of class in academic and co-curricular programs related to his area of professional expertise."

What many people on campus didn't know was that Deters has a long history of problematic stances, opinions and statements that are openly antithetical to Jesuit values.

Deters, former Hamilton County Prosecutor, not only supports the death penalty but also wants to bring back the firing squad.

Numerous courts, civil rights groups and legal ex-

perts have condemned the firing squad as cruel and inhumane. In fact, Deters was condemned by Vatican and Jesuit officials for his stance on the death penalty.

"I am disappointed, embarrassed and scandalized that you, not only a Catholic but also a fellow alumnus of St. Xavier High School, have used the platform of your public office to oppose and confuse the moral teaching of the Church in so open a fashion," Rev. Paul Mueller, vice director and superior of the Jesuit community at the Vatican Observatory, said.

Now, as you're probably aware, Xavier has committed itself, multiple times, to principles of anti-racism. How does this relate to Joe Deters, you might ask? Well, let me explain.

Joe Deters does not believe that systemic racism exists. In fact, he believes that the concept of anti-racism harms the Black community.

"The false narrative that police are hunting Black men in the streets hurts the Black community. The belief that we should reduce sentences of violent people because of sys-

temic racism hurts the Black community," Deters said.

After an incident in which a group of Black men allegedly beat up a White man, Deters used language so inflammatory and racially insensitive that the Cincinnati Enquirer Editorial Board condemned his remarks.

"The root cause of this is there's no discipline in the homes, they don't go to school, you know, they live off the government, no personal accountability and they just beat people up for no reason, and it's disgusting," Deters said.

"This is a disturbing set of worn stereotypes for an enforcer of law and order to utter. He should take care not to use his bully pulpit to feed racial discord in our community," the Enquirer Editorial Board said in response.

Deters consistently flies in the face of not only Jesuit values, but also basic principles of human decency.

In fact, last semester, a group of 21 faculty members, including the chairs of the History; English; Classics and Modern Languages; Race, Intersectionality, Gender, and

Sociology and Philosophy departments; as well as the Best Chair for Ethics/Religion and the Chair of the Faculty Committee wrote an opinion piece in this very publication stating, "the administration's silence is disingenuous, especially at an institution of higher education that espouses using and teaching civic engagement."

Deters has received pushback from students, faculty and community members.

Myself and others who have spoken out have been openly maligned and attacked in the press by the Attorney General of Ohio, local judicial candidates and conservative talk show hosts. I have been called an "atheistic marxist," "uneducated" and far, far worse.

We have been accused of trying to "cancel" Deters. That we are simply partisan hacks attempting to remove a conservative voice from our campus. That couldn't be farther from the truth.

This is not about politics or "cancel culture." This is about standing up against extremist hatred and rejecting bigotry in all forms. To create an

inclusive, accepting and safe campus environment, we cannot allow for racist rhetoric to be spewed from a position of authority.

By giving Deters a distinguished title and elevating his voice, Xavier has provided Deters with tacit approval and signaled that protecting minority students is not a priority.

The university cannot allow Deters' rhetoric to be elevated any longer. I call on my fellow students to read up on Deters and his history, get educated and make your voices heard.



Ethan Nichols is a staff writer for *NewsWire*. He is Philosophy, Politics and the Public and English double major from Cincinnati.

Manresa Makes It Complicated

Manresa is a time where first-years get to experience life at Xavier. Manresa places a person into a group of new students who are in the same boat as one another: transitioning from high school to college.

There's no question that Manresa is an important part of a first-year's experience. The problem lies within its failure to provide clear communication, which leads to further complications with the roles of alternate orientation leaders and living situations in University Station.

I applied during my second semester of sophomore year and went through the process of interviewing and anxiously waiting to see if I was even selected to be a leader. I got placed as an alternate. I was a little disappointed to say the

least, but I knew that there was a possibility that over the summer I could be placed as an actual orientation leader.

My problems first arrived when there was confusion about what an alternate orientation leader even was. What were the responsibilities? The only things that were gathered were that they go to the trainings and move in early.

Later on, information about it became hazier and more confusing, as there was conflicting information from Manresa and several admitted Manresa people. So, I was then left in a bind about when to leave my summer job and move into the University Station apartments. All I could do was wait.

With the alternate position basically being nothing short of a waiting game, I respect-

fully rescinded consideration of being elevated due to miscommunication and disorganization.

Two of my roommates were selected as orientation leaders, so we thought that they both would move in early, while my other roommate and I would move in on the day the lease starts. It sounds simple enough.

Throughout the summer, however, there wasn't any word regarding early move in. Two weeks before the start of the lease, Aug. 15, a text from University Station was sent out, reading, "The only way to move in early is to sign the as-is agreement." This, of course, threw us off as that meant we would have to take a gamble on whether or not the apartment would be clean. We later found out that the reason why

it took so long was that University Station switched management in May, and Manresa leadership failed to notify the new management — giving little time for Manresa leaders and staff to make a decision — especially those who do not live in the area. We opted out of it, but through a glitch in University Station's system, it registered us as if we were moving in early, causing a delay in apartment cleaning. On move-in day, there were a host of problems ranging from peeled paint to the dishwasher being full of mold and not shutting all the way.

I understand some things can go a little south, especially with something as important and impactful as Manresa, but the organization and miscommunication about specific roles and occupying a healthy

living space was completely inexcusable.

I would hope the individuals running Manresa next year are able to rally around the idea of being more communicative with upcoming leaders and staff.



Michael Dementjevs is a staff writer for *NewsWire*. He is a philosophy major from Burlington, Kentucky.

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

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Take Me Home, Country Roads

Country music creates a variety of distinct imagery: long country roads, cold beer, trucks, the idealized America and countless other staples that make up the genre. In mid-July, one of country music's biggest stars Jason Aldean — notably not from a small town, having grown up in Macon, Ga. — released the music video for his song, "Try That In A Small Town."

The song is a mess. It is filled with racist dog whistles and a wish for vigilante violence. The music video contains imagery of a courthouse with a long history of racial injustice, and the song itself seems to be talking about a sundown town.

The firestorm the song created seemed indicative of what country music has become: a stomping ground for right-wing ideals, songs devoid of deep lyricism and artistically uninventive, mass-produced music that panders to racism and bigotry.

About a week after Aldean's video began to make the rounds, Tyler Childers released his new song, "In Your Love," with an accompanying music video. It is a love song focused on savoring time with each other before an untimely death, and the music video features a gay love story of

two Appalachian coal miners before one dies of black lung disease. Childers has become an increasingly vocal ally of social justice causes, both with this recent video and the album "Long Violent History," which featured a track supporting the Black Lives Matter movement.

These two songs form a dichotomy: style vs. politics, both of which are changing in country music.

Country music has not always been the right-wing political monster it has become, and artists today seem to forget where the roots of the music stem from.

While most would assume that the roots of many country music share the politics of country musicians today, there is a deep history of left-wing ideas in the genre represented by artists like Woody Guthrie in the 1930s and the famous picture of his guitar with the words "This Machine Kills Fascists," or Johnny Cash as the "Man in Black" who wore dark clothing to support the poor and hungry and performed in prisons. What is now known as "outlaw country" used to be the entirety of the genre.

However, most people associate country music with right-wing politics. There are

a few reasons for this: Country music is most popular in the South, which tends to lean Republican. Many of the artists in the genre are politically right-wing.

There is also the issue of bigotry within country music.

Morgan Wallen may be one of the most successful and biggest names in the genre as of late, but history will likely remember him for saying a racial slur while drunk in 2020. Aldean is well-known for his support of former President Donald Trump. These are simply two examples of deep issues within country music.

For most of my life, country music has been more similar to Aldean's brand: pop country determined by the people in Nashville — the center of country music — for radio. Songs like "Big Green Tractor," "Cruise" or more recently, "Last Night," by Wallen, are all popular songs that stem from this part of country music.

This is what country music has become known for. Some people have taken to calling this type of music "bro country," which is a fair moniker.

Country music has not always been the right-wing political machine it has become, and artists today seem to forget where the roots of the music stem from.

It is the type of music you can imagine being played on a boat. Lyrically, these songs struggle. They are very plain and more focused on being catchy so that they can become successful on the radio. And, this brand of country music has been dominant. Like I said, this is what people know country music for, but I most certainly wish this were not the case, as there is so much more to country music.

In spite of the dominance of both this pop country sound and right-wing ideals, liberal subsections of country music are still thriving.

In recent years, there has been a new movement in country music. It has a variety of names, such as folk country and neo-traditional — often referred to as "y'alternative."

Striking against the simplistic music coming out of Nashville, these songs and songwriters focus more on poetic lyrics with deep meanings. Ballads and rich stories are making a return to country music, and people are liking it a lot. Obviously with the success of Wallen's most recent album, the pop country

brand is still strong. But recent success of artists such as Zach Bryan, Tyler Childers, Sturgill Simpson, Jason Isbell and Colter Wall indicate that country music is returning to its outlaw roots.

Simpson sings about metaphysics, Wall about life on the plains and Childers about the difficulties of life in Appalachia, and there are many more artists of this type. As the style of country is shifting, it is slowly shifting politically as well.

We have already touched on Tyler Childers, but there are others like Simpson, Willie Nelson, Kris Kristofferson and Jason Isbell.

I sincerely hope in the battle for the soul of country that the y'allternative genre and those that are the current faces of it win out.



Christian Cullen is a staff writer for Newswire. He is a psychology major from Louisville.

Oh, the Places You'll Go

For the past three years, I have taken almost all of my belongings, shoved them into two suitcases and two boxes, along with my pillow and mattress topper, and hauled them into the car with my dad to make the five-hour venture from Chicago to Cincinnati.

Each year, I seem to not have enough space for the things I want to bring, along with the reality that the boxes I fill are always heavier than I remember. The act of taking all of my clothes, accessories and room decorations out of my childhood bedroom each year — the small details of my life that define my personality — and seeing them confined to these two suitcases and boxes spurs an awful, overwhelming feeling that I nev-

er knew I would experience when moving to college.

Granted, I am a relatively sentimental person who often attaches meaning to most of the items that I own. However, the way that moving away to college has been promoted is the epitome of the simultaneous feelings of excitement and bittersweet nostalgia.

There are the unavoidable feelings of homesickness when incoming students leave their home — a place where they have potentially lived in for many years, nurtured by loving family and friends. Then, they enter the newfound independence that a student receives as they begin their adventure through college with no parental control and the ability to eat cereal and pizza whenever

they want, which is intended to be a perfect scenario for any 18-year-old.

Though new beginnings can be exciting, the unforeseen challenges that students face while starting the process of moving to college can supersede the idyllic expectations that universities tend to advertise.

The challenge of moving to and from college that many other students and myself have endured throughout these past few years is the first hurdle — recognizing that you are moving all of the items that you have deemed important in your life out of the place where they have sat, potentially for years.

You have grown and different versions of yourself have developed from the

journey of life, love and loss, and along the way, these items have accumulated a level of meaning and value through your experiences.

However, an unforeseen factor that is not mentioned in any college pamphlet discussing the process of moving is the sudden realization that you are taking these things out of the place that gives them meaning and into a dusty suitcase to travel hundreds of miles to then be put in a blank dorm with no initial value.

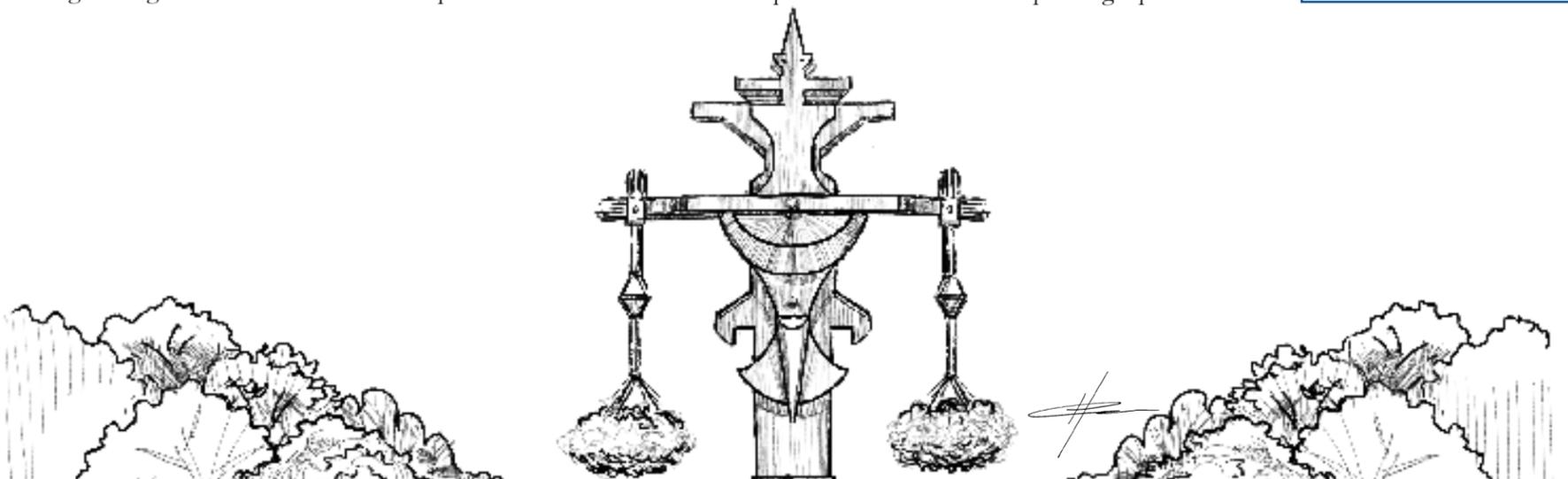
Amidst these challenges, colleges should include more events and suggestions for students that experience this initial feeling of homesickness. The simple recognition that many students feel this overwhelming anxiety when packing up for school

each year could contribute to making the transition into each school year easier.

There should be an emphasis on the redirection of focus from where the students are coming from, to where they are going in their futures and the new memories and meaning they will gain from their new opportunities.



Kyra Hudson is an staff writer for Newswire. She is an English and French double major from Chicago.



Xavier Base Steals Bid to Big Dance

Musketeers slug into NCAA Baseball Championship berth led by Housinger, pitchers

BY PAT GAINOR
Staff Writer

Xavier's 2023 baseball campaign came to its story-book ending in June, as the Musketeers defeated the Connecticut Huskies in a winner-take-all Game 7 to win their first Big East Championship and their first NCAA tournament appearance since 2017.

Coming off their second consecutive championship game loss, Xavier entered the 2023 season ranked third in the Big East with no first place votes behind Creighton and UConn. This season was also be the last for veteran Xavier players such as Jack Housinger and Andrew Walker, both of whom have been in the program since 2019.

The Musketeers struggled out of the gate to begin the season, losing their first five games, and were 10-12 two games into their final series in March. But after a dramatic win in the finale against #24 West Virginia, Xavier set off on an 11-game winning streak.

Xavier retained momentum, winning 13 of their last 23 games and finishing second in the Big East standings, entering the tournament with a 34-22 record.

After defeating the Seton



Photo courtesy of goxavier.com

Xavier baseball advanced to play in Nashville after an upstart Big East tournament run including two defeats of UConn and Seton Hall. It marked Xavier's first Big East championship in six seasons.

Hall Pirates in the opening round, the Musketeers steamrolled UConn to secure a championship round berth.

In a rematch against the Huskies, Xavier dropped the first game 6-4, leading to a winner-take-all Game 7 for the title. Xavier would enter the 9th inning down 3-2. After left-handed pitcher Carter Hendrickson and third baseman Grant Stephenson got aboard, Jack Housinger hit a triple to right field, scoring both the tying and go-ahead runs after being down to their final three outs. Xavier plated five runs in the 9th, winning the ball game and

the conference tournament in picture-perfect fashion.

In an interview with WCPO 9 News, Housinger, who was awarded the Jack Kaiser Big East Most Valuable Player of the Tournament, remarked "Before you go to bed the last however many years, you play that moment in your head like, 'What's it gonna be like? You just act it out so many times in your head and then it just happens, and it's amazing.'"

"Mr. Xavier" finished his collegiate career with the Musketeers holding the program title for most games played (238), most at-bats

(870) and most walks drawn (193).

Xavier was selected as the three seed in the Nashville Regional, hosted by Vanderbilt. After dropping the opener to Oregon, Xavier would blank Eastern Illinois on the back of a complete game shutout and stun the hosting #6 Vanderbilt in a 2-1 pitcher's duel, with sophomore relief pitcher Justin Loer re-entering the game after a four hour rain delay to get the save in the 9th inning. The Musketeers fell to the Ducks in the Regional Final, ending their season with a 39-25 record, tying for the most wins

in program history.

This run was aided by successful offense, defense and pitching. At the plate, eight of Xavier's nine players who played in at least 40 games either averaged .250 or higher at the plate or had an on-base plus slugging (OPS) percentage of at least .750. Defensively, Xavier finished second in the Big East in fielding percentage, only five ticks behind Creighton at .978. These stats paved the way for eight All-Big East team selections, with Andrew Walker, Matt DePrey and Brant Alazaus notably making the First Team.

Xavier brought to the table arguably the most potent three-pitcher starting rotation in program history with Brant Alazaus, Ethan Bosacker and Luke Hoskins splitting reps.

Alazaus and Bosacker both recorded an ERA under four and combined for a record of 17-6, becoming the third and fourth pitchers in program history to record triple-digit strikeouts in a season (101, 102). Both also recorded complete-game shutouts: Alazaus against Creighton and Bosacker against EIU. Hoskins finished his season with a 7-2 record, with his magnum opus coming in tournament time as he held an electric Vanderbilt offense to just one run off three hits in the win.

Western & Southern Open's Uncertain Future Is No Djok

While Charlotte places a bid to host in 2024, Cincinnatians show their love for tourney

BY MICHAEL DALEY
Guest Writer

Nineteen year old American tennis phenom Coco Gauff steamrolled her way through the women's singles competition at the Western and Southern Open in Mason, Ohio. Gauff won 10 out of 11 sets throughout the tournament, only dropping a set to Polish world number one Iga Swiatek in the semifinals before taking care of business in straight sets against Karolina Muchova of Czechia in the championship match.

This was Gauff's fifth career title, which elevates her to world number six in the rankings just ahead of the U.S. Open in the upcoming weeks. Gauff will hope to carry her momentum into the U.S. Open to secure her first Grand Slam title and work her way back up to her career high ranking of fourth.

Founded in 1899, the Western & Southern Open is America's oldest tennis tournament and has only been held five times outside of the Cincinnati area. However, the city of Charlotte has approved a bid of up to 65 million dollars for the tournament and is willing to build an entirely new facility to host the world-renowned

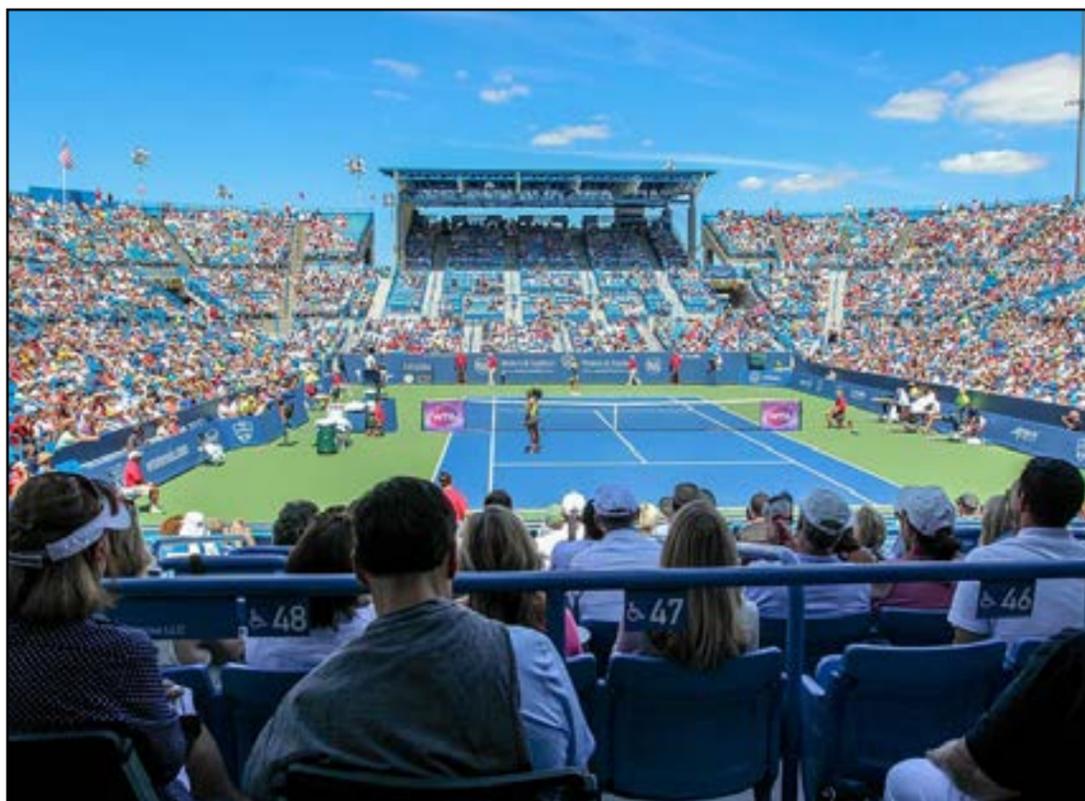


Photo courtesy of wallpaperflare.com

The 2023 Western & Southern Open highlighted a rematch of the Wimbledon Men's Final and shattered attendance records, attracting over 200,000 fans from each state and nearly forty respective countries.

With the Western and Southern Open's future in Cincinnati in question, Gauff shared her admiration for the event, referring to the large improvements made on the facilities for the players. During her trophy celebration, Gauff said she looks forward to competing in the Western and Southern Open

again and "hopefully in Cincinnati."

With the support of Gauff and more than 1,300 volunteers working the event, the future appears positive for Cincinnati's future hosting the Western & Southern Open. There were new records set in attendance throughout the week, including the opening weekend with

more than 38,000 tickets sold.

On the men's side of the tournament, world number two and now three — time Western & Southern Open champion — Novak Djokovic defeated the 20 year old world number one Carlos Alcaraz in a match spanning near four hours in the final. This match came just over a month after their five set, four hour and

42 minute match in the Wimbledon final in which Alcaraz prevailed. All eyes will be on the U.S. Open for a potential rematch in the final in what is quickly becoming one of the most popular rivalries in sports. In light of the retirements of Rodger Federer and Rafael Nadal, matches between the Wimbledon men's finalists are duels used to coronate tennis's premier athlete from week to week.

Male American players saw little success in the tournament with only world number nine Taylor Fritz, who was seeded ninth in the tournament, reaching the quarterfinals before being dispatched in one hour and one minute by eventual champion Djokovic.

Female American competitors had a complete sweep of the event with the aforementioned Gauff winning the singles title and doubles team Alycia Parks and Taylor Townsend taking home the women's doubles title over compatriot Nicole Malichar-Martinez and her Australian partner Ellen Perez.

Cincinnati locals JJ Wolf and Payton Stearns both saw first round exits in singles, while Stearns advanced to the round of 16 in the women's doubles bracket.

Soul Food Served by Southern Grace

BY OWEN MIGUEL
Staff Writer

Tired of the monotony of Currito burritos, Xavier students have been asking for better food options on and near campus. The wait is over: New soul food restaurant Southern Grace Eats opened on Montgomery Road next to the All For One shop over the summer.

Chances are you haven't heard of it if you did not live in Norwood over the summer. But once you go in and have a meal, you are going to want to tell everyone you know about this place. I was lucky enough to catch the grand opening with friend of *NewsWire* Sebastian Aguilar and needless to say, we were blown away.

Right when we walked in, we were greeted with a sense of community as residents of Norwood came to celebrate this opening. There was live music, a raffle, free drinks and speeches from those who made the restaurant possible.

Owner and head chef



Chef Nickey Stevenson opened up her soul food-based restaurant on the outskirts of campus in University Station. The food options include Southern classics like fried chicken, macaroni and cheese and cornbread.

NewsWire photos courtesy of Griffin Brammer

Nickey Stevenson gave a speech about how much the opening meant to her.

"Thank you to all of you for coming out and making this opening such a success. We could not do any of this without you," she said.

Alongside the community feel, the restaurant itself is visually appealing. You can see the kitchen right behind the register, and the dining areas

are cozy and welcoming.

Southern Grace Eats offers several dining options, but its main entrée option consists of one protein and two sides, plus a choice of cornbread or a roll. The proteins include baked or fried chicken, lemon herb salmon and BBQ brisket.

They also have wing and shrimp baskets, burger combos, salads and other sandwich options. I ordered the

shrimp basket with fries and a sweet tea for \$17, and Sebastian ordered the baked chicken entrée with mac and cheese, green beans, cornbread and a drink for approximately \$20.

Now, the way to tell the quality of a good soul food restaurant is by its mac and cheese, cornbread and sweet tea. All were a 10/10 for me. The cheese on the mac was stringy and melted to perfec-

tion, the cornbread was soft and gooey in the middle and the sweet tea was as sweet as my grandma. It was the ultimate encapsulation of the quality of the restaurant.

The rest of our meals were just as good. My shrimp and fries were fried immaculately and seasoned scrumptiously. Sebastian's chicken fell right off the bone and was also seasoned beautifully. His green beans were cooked just right.

One complaint I have is that I wish I received more shrimp for the price I paid. The amount of food that Sebastian got more than justified the price, as you could feed two people or have two meals with the portion the hot entrée provided. However I only received about five or six pieces of shrimp. It's a small complaint, but higher prices might turn some potential customers away, especially in a college crowd.

Regardless, the food and atmosphere were amazing, and I hope Southern Grace Eats and Chef Nickey get the recognition they deserve.

"Day of Flight" Lifts Cincy Spirits and Ruffles Feathers

BY LANEY KONZ
Staff Writer

Cincinnati hosted Red Bull's Flugtag event on the Banks on Saturday, Aug. 12.

German for "the day of flight," Flugtag is an ode to the wings that the classic energy beverage gives to those who drink it. Over 40 teams assembled their own aircraft with the goal of flying the furthest before hitting the water after being launched from a pier.

Red Bull's Flugtag event started in 1992 and has been held annually in the U.S. since 2002.

Red Bull's stop in Cincinnati was the only stop in the U.S. this year, making it a special event for the Queen City. An estimated 30,000 people ventured to the Ohio River to watch the spectacle.

Teams also performed skits and dressed up according to the theme of their creations to earn the crowd's favor with the hope of earning them bonus points among the judges. The judging panel was made up of familiar Cincinnati faces such as Nick Goepper, Jessica Dimon, Chad "Ochocinco" Johnson, Chloe Pavlech and Cale Saurage.

Each team had five members, one of whom was the pilot during the launch.

Grace Elam, a member of the United Dairy Farmers team, emphasized the difficulty of the flight.

"The most challenging aspect of the event was running



NewsWire photos courtesy of Ben Dickison

in a straight line," Elam said.

Cincinnati saw no record-breaking launches, but attendees raved about the event nonetheless.

After careful deliberation and consideration of the three categories (flight distance, craft creativity and showmanship), first place went to Flite Test from Minerva, Ohio. Second place went to Living Lost Land and Waters from East Moline, Ill. Third was awarded to The Neanderthals from Phoenix, Ariz.

Thunderdome, a team comprised of Cincinnati natives, was awarded the People's Choice Award.

Finishing at 54 feet, The Smoke Eaters from Ripon,

Wis. completed the longest flight.

There were a plethora of creative takes on a flying craft, including Team Top Gums from Middletown, Ohio, who created their entry as an homage to Betty White, the movie *Top Gun* and the show *Golden Girls*.

There was also controversy spurring surrounding the Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) team after their disqualification on Saturday.

Chris Seelbach, former president of Cincinnati City Council and member of the PFLAG team, hopped on X (formerly Twitter) to voice his disappointment: "Couldn't



BY KYRA HUDSON

Staff Writer

- Selena Gomez announced a new single coming out Friday (Aug. 17).
- Britney Spears' husband Sam Asghari filed for divorce after one year of marriage (Aug. 17).
- Amazon Prime's *The Summer I Turned Pretty* aired its final episode of season 2 (Aug. 18).
- Rihanna gave birth to her second baby with A\$AP Rocky (Aug. 21).
- Singer Jesse Ruthford released an EP with lyrics seemingly discussing a previous relationship with Billie Eilish (Aug. 21).

be more proud of this PFLAG team and couldn't be more disappointed with @redbullflugtag Cincinnati. PFLAG local, led by Kat Steiner, worked for months getting designs approved. Over and over again. Red Bull approved our craft every single step of the way."

"The Red Bull organizers told us they wouldn't let our craft fly and to turn around because of 'environmental concerns.' Again. They approved every single inch of the design and execution. Many times over," Seelbach said.

"The craft in question had a structural failure en route to the flight deck. As a result, the craft was unable to participate due to safety and environmental concerns," a spokesperson for the event said.

Despite the controversy, several Cincinnati residents found the event to be an exciting representation of the city and its people.

"I thought the event was amazing," Cincinnati resident Lainey Barschack said. "It was a great way for the people of Cincy to show off some truly impressive levels of creativity!"



Aries: Your roommate is gonna put a bag off salami in your mini fridge and it will stink up your Brita.



Taurus: If an upperclassman tells you to go to Lateral, do not attempt. It has been closed for years.



Gemini: If you took an 8 a.m. class, stop complaining. Commit to the bit and pass.



Cancer: Stop wearing dresses and jean jackets to class. We all know you're new here.



Leo: A little X merch is cute, but your socks don't need to match your sweatshirt.



Virgo: It is literally 100 degrees out. If you're gonna sylly week, at least drink proper amounts of water.



Libra: Do not attempt to go to Dana's. It will not end well for you.



Scorpio: Go to Club Day! Get free food and make new friends! It would be better than staring at the wall.



Sagittarius: Don't play guitar for girls. We all saw *Barbie* already. You're not Ryan Gosling, either.



Capricorn: Kiss, Marry, Kill: Blue Blob, D'artangan and Sean Miller.



Aquarius: Please inspect your chicken at the Caf.



Pisces: Girls all talk to each other. Even when they've only known each other for a week. Before you talk smack, check all your bases.

Bro these girls here ain't sh—

You're just Ken.



Drink Some Water

BY KAYLA ROSS, BACK PAGE EDITOR

These freshmen don't deserve to be called first years. God, I hope this first year is also their last. Where do kids get the audacity these days? Have you been personally victimized by a freshman yet? Just yesterday, I was in the Caf, and I was patiently waiting on my chicken quesadilla with just pico and rice on the side. Out of the corner of my eye, I noticed a freshman doing a full body scan on me. He then proceeded to say to his buddy of two days standing next to him, "Damn bro. I need to go back home. The girls here ain't sh*t. I need my home hoes back." Did he think I couldn't see him or hear him because I was a foot taller than him and his buddy? Did he think he was attractive enough to be saying all that? He clearly had a DIY bleach blonde job. His mommy probably did it with peroxide for him.

In addition to that, here are some of the questions anonymous Manresa Orientation Team leaders received from their freshmen:

- What's the policy on weapons?
- Are there covers at bars?
- Are you in touch with Jesus?
- Is public intoxication frowned upon here?
- How often do people hook up in Cintas Center?
- Are any of your professors MILFs?

Yes, yes- the lust, yearning to party, stupidity and naivety of freshmen is to be expected. But, what absolutely must be addressed is the thirst going on in the Xavier Class of 2027 Snapchat story. These boys are thirsty like they walked from Mexico to campus. These boys are thirsty like they were participants in the alleged Russian Sleep Experiment. These boys are thirsty like they were salted and hung up to dry in a Spanish ham shop.

Bring shame back! Bring bullying back! Bring hazing back!

Do something. Take down the XU of 2027 Snapchat group. I was subjected to seeing what dorm is already the loudest in the spooky hours. I was subjected to seeing a freshman put his phone number on this story because he really just... needed a cuddle. Really bad.

Xavier Staff, if you're reading this, I am sorry to lower your high hopes for this new class. It's not good. Please get more applicants so we can lower the acceptance rate. Also, there should definitely be some kind of behavioral and respect screening before students are admitted to Xavier because I am a little disgusted. Manresa leaders and staff, thank you for your service and your commitment to these people. I am praying for the state of your PTSD.

Xoxo,
Slayla