



Familiar Face is New Director of CDI

Samuel Terry, the former assistant director of the CDI, receives promotion to director

BY DOMINIC DEGRINNEY
Newswire Intern

This fall, the Center for Inclusion and Diversity (CDI) welcomed their new director, Samuel Terry.

Terry has worked at Xavier for almost two years now, beginning his journey at Xavier as assistant director of Student Services, success coach and advisor for biomedical sciences and biology majors and, until recently, the assistant director of the CDI.

With over 20 years of higher-education experience, in his new position, Terry is seeking to embrace the mission of the CDI.

Particularly, he believes the Jesuit value *cura personalis* is wholly aligned with the mission of the CDI. Caring for the whole person — in Terry's eyes — is the primary motivating factor for the CDI to provide for students on campus who are especially vulnerable.

"We deal with students of color, first-generation students, low socioeconomic and LGBTQ+ students as well," Terry said.

"And what we strive to do is to be a catalyst for social

change here at Xavier, creating safe spaces for our students," he continued.

This year, Terry hopes to focus on empowering students in his new position.

"I think for me, my key word this year is empowerment. What I really am striving to do is to empower students to make a difference here. They're here not only to make a difference, but to empower them to seek resources to fight for social justice — to fight for a sense of belonging here at Xavier," he said.

Terry emphasized that he doesn't feel students are fully aware of the resources and programming the CDI offers.

"I think a lot of people don't realize what the (CDI) does. We want to be a hang-out spot for students — a place where they can work and meet other people, but also we do a lot of programs to make sure that they are successful at Xavier," he said.

Citing a few examples, Terry specifically mentioned programs such as Queeries, Barbershop Talk and the Multicultural Welcome Back.

Reflecting on his own experience as an undergraduate student, Terry expressed



Photo courtesy of xavier.edu

After nearly two years in various roles at Xavier, Samuel Terry has assumed the role of Director of the CDI. He hopes to empower students to use university resources and make a difference at Xavier.

excitement to serve as a resource to students jumping at opportunities to get involved with the CDI.

"I was a first-gen student, and so I've always wanted to be a resource to students. The

opportunity presented itself for me to come to the CDI last year as assistant director, and so I started over here last year," Terry said. "It was never about me when I took the position... It's all about what I can do to help students. I had a mentor who really pushed me to become who I am, and I've always strived to be like him."

Terry then served as the assistant director for Multicultural Affairs, advising 12 groups for students of color. He feels that through these opportunities, he has particularly enjoyed connecting with students and it has encouraged his continued involvement in the CDI.

"I think for me, it was more mentoring — making con-

nections with students on a personal level. I did that for about a year, and the opportunity presented itself after our director left and I was appointed by our interim director Ivy Banks to be the next director," he said.

For Terry, being the CDI director is not a job. He made the distinction that it is rather a "ministry" and a "calling."

Terry states that the work he does requires creativity and a new perspective to figure different ways of reaching out to those he desires to help, but beyond that, he believes that his job requires "heart" and "passion," which he plans to bring in order to empower students to make a significant change on the Xavier campus.



Photo courtesy of xavier.edu

In this issue...

Campus, Page 2

Student canvassers are making their voices heard in this year's election cycle.



World, Page 5

The United Auto Workers strike continues and expands, demanding better conditions.



Opinions, Page 7

Intern Hannah Kremer spills the tea on the pitfalls of Victory Perk's coffee and service.



A&E, Page 9

Fionna and Cake is a less-than-magnificent addition to the *Adventure Time* universe.



Photo-Op: XU Students Campaign

With Election Day on its way, students knock on doors to encourage voting

BY LUCA FILIGENZI
Guest Writer

As Election Day quickly approaches, many students have found themselves journeying along the campaign trail volunteering and working for local officials.

Students have been visiting local Cincinnati and Kentucky neighborhoods, knocking on doors and informing the community about candidates and issues they can vote for or against on Nov. 7.

In this election cycle, Ohioans can vote on several major issues including Issue 1, the Right to Make Reproductive Decisions Including Abortion Initiative, and Issue 2, the Marijuana Legalization Initiative.

The deadline to register for voting is Oct. 10, and early voting begins on Oct.

To register to vote in Ohio, an Ohio-issued photo ID, a military or veteran ID or a passport is needed.



Newswire photo courtesy of Sophia Olivia

Cincinnati City Councilmember Meeka Owens

“Canvassing is a fantastic way to get out into the community and experience the neighborhoods of Cincinnati. It is so fulfilling to talk to community members who are excited about the civic process. Sharing information that will help them exercise their right to vote in an informed way is incredibly rewarding,” junior Philosophy, Politics and the Public major Sophia Olivia said.



Newswire photo courtesy of Alyssa Blandford

Cincinnati City Councilmember Seth Walsh

“Canvassing is such a great way to get to see new parts of the city, engage with local politics and have important conversations with interesting people,” junior Philosophy, Politics and the Public and history double major Alyssa Blandford said.

September 25, 2023 Student Government Association Meeting Recap

BY CASSANDRA HOFFMAN

- Kate Lawson, chief officer of the Title IX Office, told students they can report Title IX violations, even if the perpetrator is not a Xavier student, relating to climate issues or patterns of behavior in addition to individual actions.
- XUPD is patrolling Cleney with eight to nine police cars, targeting large gatherings of people and open containers.
- SGA is Listening is likely to happen on Monday, Oct. 19 in the Justice Atrium from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- Three new clubs are exiting conditional status: the Buffalo Club on Nov. 8 and the Pickleball and Photography clubs on Nov. 23.
- Student Rights and Identity is meeting with a student concerned with the wording in Xavier’s student commitment statement.

Correction:

An article in the Sept. 20, 2023 edition of *Newswire* regarding Xavier’s LGBTQ+ Alliance being granted University-Affiliated Organization (UAO) status incorrectly stated the source of UAO funding. UAOs receive funding from the student activity fee pool. The article also incorrectly stated the result of the vote, which was 11 votes for, one against and seven abstentions.



Newswire photo courtesy of Liam Fuller

Ky. Governor Andy Beshear

“What’s most rewarding is getting the chance to talk to voters throughout Ky, which I would not have been able to do had it not been for canvassing for the Beshear campaign,” junior accounting major and president of Xavier’s chapter of the Young Democratic Socialist of America Liam Fuller said.



Newswire photo courtesy of Mak Krivka

Cincinnati City Councilmember Liz Keating

“Xavier students have proven they want a voice in their communities. That is why so many of them have started working on campaigns... and we couldn’t be happier,” junior PPP major and president of College Republicans Mak Krivka said.

X-CHANGE Kicks Off Student Service

By CLARE MCKINLEY
Staff Writer

Xavier students gathered on the Academic Mall last Sunday for the annual kick off of the X-CHANGE program, marking the start of their weekly service activities.

Sponsored by the Center for Faith and Justice, X-CHANGE is a service program where students dedicate about two hours each week to go into the community and help others.

When they return to Xavier, they put into practice the Jesuit value of reflection and discuss their experience with other members. This semester, Xavier students have the opportunity to tutor children, walk dogs at an animal shelter, serve in a soup kitchen and volunteer at a local farm.

The kickoff took place on Sept. 24 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Upon arrival, students could check in with the board members and meet their groups. After a few announcements and a group photo, X-CHANGE commenced.

Groups began with ice breaker questions in order to take the first steps towards building a community.

Sophomore biomedical sciences major Meg Calumpang is a site leader this year and says that her group made quick work of this.



Photo courtesy of @xucfj via Instagram

Through this year's X-CHANGE program, students will engage in a number of service-based activities with the goal of learning about working in solidarity with others and building community.

"My group came really early, so we got to know each other quickly, know each other's names, do our Xavier intros and stuff like that," she said. "We went to our room and then from there we did another icebreaker and answered the most random questions."

After introductions concluded, groups went into Alter Hall and learned about what it means to be in service

with and for others through videos and more conversation.

Sophomore biology major Elisabeth Nelson said that one of the most memorable parts was when they watched a video featuring theology professor Dr. Marcus Mescher discussing what service means to him.

"He talked about how service is not about doing things to make yourself look better

and put it on a resume. But it's more about being with the community and kind of showing people that you're there for them, so I really liked that," Nelson said.

Nelson has been a participant in X-CHANGE for all three of her semesters at Xavier and joined the program because she had never participated in community service before and thought it

would be fun.

This semester she is going to tutor kids at a church in the greater Cincinnati area and is most excited to build community.

"I am most looking forward to being able to make new relationships with some of the children and be able to hear about their day and talk to them," she said. "And not even that, just being someone that the kids can count on to come see them every single week and either to do homework, or not do homework and just to hang out and talk about things going on in life."

X-CHANGE's mission is to encourage students to build friendships and engage with people from the local community. Calumpang said she thinks that through X-CHANGE, she finally understands what Xavier means when they talk about service rooted in justice and love.

"I think the service opportunities given by Xavier involve a lot of hands-on experience. Being able to step off campus and know what life is like outside of our little bubble and being personal and genuine with everyone creates a really strong community. I think it's really important, especially since we're only at Xavier for so little and we are out in the real world for much longer," Nelson said.

The Clocktower Review

Overgrown

Submit student poetry, prose*, and art to The Clocktower Review by emailing theclocktowerreview@xavier.edu.

Follow us on Instagram
[@theclocktowerreview](https://www.instagram.com/theclocktowerreview).

*prose is limited to 3000 words

Iranian Parliament Approves Hijab Bill

BY AUDREY ELWOOD
Newswire Intern

Iran's parliament approved a new controversial law that increases the punishments for improper hijab-wearing last week, setting new regulations around dress and modesty for women in Iran.

The measure, known as the Support the Family by Promoting the Culture of Chastity and Hijab Bill, was approved in a vote of 152 to 34 last Wednesday. It will not be enacted until the Guardian Council, a group of elders and morality counselors, approves the measure.

While Iran has had a modesty code since 1981, this

70-article bill aims to make the current law much stricter and includes a wide range of proposals. The bill would raise the jail time from the current maximum of two months in prison to 10 years, and increase the fines from 5,000 to 500,000 rials (\$0.10-\$10.14) to 180 million to 360 million rials (\$3,651-\$7,302).

Alongside these punishments, the bill enacts punishments for any "foreign governments, networks, media, groups or organizations" who purposefully promote violation of the law. Businesses can be punished for serving women without hijabs as well. Individuals who are found guilty

of insulting or ridiculing the hijab also face fines and potential jail time.

"I know a lot of people are talking about jail time. The law does say that, if you advocate or encourage what they call indecent behavior, then you can be imprisoned for five to ten years. But, I think they put that law there for activists," Dr. Bashir Tofangsazi, a Xavier assistant professor of sociology who focuses on social movements in the Middle East and North Africa and a born and raised Iranian, said.

Tofangsazi mentioned that the real point of concern for the average citizen is the fines. "For the everyday average citizen, they have put in really big fines. They can go up to the equivalent of about \$2,000, which is a lot of money in Europe, and it's a lot of money everywhere, but in that country, it could literally be equal to one year's salary... if you are a low wage worker," he said.

The bill targets "socially influential" people that wear hijabs improperly and states that if they are found guilty, they could also face jail time and a fine equivalent to 1-5% of their total assets. The bill's restrictions extend to toys and mannequins, which are barred from being portrayed with indecency.

The bill also states that artificial intelligence can be used to identify women who breach



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

the imposed dress code.

There was no public debate on the bill, due to Iran's 85th article of their national constitution. This section has a provision that allows Iran's parliament to pass a bill circumventing the standard procedure of debating potential laws.

Several human rights groups have spoken out against the bill, including the United Nations (UN). Experts at the UN have stated that the bill's impacts could result in a "gender apartheid."

The bill comes almost exactly a year after the uproar around the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Iranian woman who was charged with improperly wearing the hijab in public by the morality police. She died in Sept. 2022 in police custody under mysteri-

ous circumstances.

This event sparked protests all over the nation attempting to topple the theocracy, with estimates of 500 people dying in the protests and over 22,000 people detained.

The Iranian government has faced massive questioning of their legitimacy from religious groups because so many women have been out in public without the hijab.

"The protests literally threatened the existence of the regime. So they knew that they couldn't go out and beat more people up, beat more women up, kill more women or arrest more women. It would be a mess. But they wanted to do something, so they said, hey, we passed the law, we still care about this. We're still an Islamic republic," Tofangsazi said.



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

The Iranian Parliament approved a new hijab bill that places numerous restrictions on the wearing of hijabs in public, including increasing the potential jail time to 10 years.

Azerbaijan Claims Control of Nagorno-Karabakh

BY JACK PLUTH
Staff Writer

The authorities of Nagorno-Karabakh, a non-internationally recognized state consisting of a majority ethnically-Armenian population, surrendered their armed forces and government to the military of Azerbaijan.

The Azerbaijani military entered the breakaway state and ultimately succeeded in forcing a capitulation by the de facto government, resulting in a death toll in the hundreds.

After the surrender and Azerbaijan's military taking control of Nagorno-Karabakh, also known as the Republic of Artsakh, Azerbaijani officials met with representatives of the pro-Armenian enclave to discuss the future of the residents there under new rule. The Armenian government said that more than 28,000 refugees had crossed into the country from the enclave since local forces surrendered.

The meeting, which occurred in the town of Yevlakh, was described by the Azerbaijani administration as having been held in a "constructive and positive atmosphere" but did not immediately yield results.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan noted that Armenia is ready to host displaced people affected by the surrender. He said accommodations had been prepared for tens of thousands of people, although he saw "no direct threat" to Karabakh's ethnic Armenians. The region is home to approximately 120,000 ethnic Armenians.

Yesterday, a fuel depot blast in the breakaway region killed at least 68 people and injured hundreds more. The cause of the explosion has not been made immediately clear, but the region has faced a fuel shortage following a months-long blockade.

"Nagorno-Karabakh is part of the legacy of the unresolved issues which remain over 30 years after the breakup of the Soviet Union," Father James McCann, S.J., a Jesuit scholar and international politics professor at Xavier, said.

The surrender of Nagorno-Karabakh comes as the conclusion to a more than 30-year long conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan following the dissolution of the Soviet Union. In the early 1990's, Armenia and Azerbaijan clashed over control of areas consisting of ethnic Armenians.

This first conflict resulted in Armenia gaining a vast amount of territory internationally recognized as being land within the borders of Azerbaijan. The two nations held tenuous peace which eventually fell apart.

In 2020, a second war broke out between Armenia and Azerbaijan, this time with the latter retaking much of the territory they had lost. While Armenia lost several cities in this war, one of the greatest impacts came from the isolation of Nagorno-Karabakh.

With Nagorno-Karabakh surrounded on all sides by Azerbaijani forces, a blockade of the region began in Dec.

2022, eventually giving way to military incursions from the former in late 2023.

Nagorno-Karabakh then surrendered to Azerbaijani forces, ending its existence as a semi-independent state. Armenians took to protesting in the streets of their capital, Yerevan, against a refusal to take action to reinforce Nagorno-Karabakh by their government.

Russian army peacekeepers have also aided in relations between the region and Azerbaijan, and are present on behalf of Armenia, a member of the Russia-led Collective Security Treaty Organization.

"Russia's peacekeeping (ef-

orts) promises obviously fell short," McCann said.

Armenia's increasingly close ties to the United States have reflected the disparities in Russia's peacekeeping action. Armenia and the U.S. participated in joint military exercises between the countries last week.

There have been several reports of Russian soldiers coming under fire and being killed by Azerbaijani forces, during their evacuation of the region. The current death toll stands at five confirmed Russian soldiers killed in action from Azerbaijani fire, as well as a single loss due to Armenian action.



Photo courtesy of rawpixel.com

UAW Expands Strike Against Automakers

Workers seek higher pay and other improvements in labor agreements from the Big Three

BY GAVIN STEELE
Guest Writer

The United Auto Workers union (UAW) expanded its strike last week against General Motors (GM) and Stellantis — the parent company of Jeep, Dodge and Chrysler — as negotiations remained tense and divided on key issues. The UAW has also begun talks with Ford to come to a new labor agreement in its continued strike against the automaker.

The strike is not a full-scale walkout but is a “limited and targeted” work stoppage by approximately 12,700 UAW members, which began on Sept. 15 after workers’ four-year work contracts expired. The strikes began with one plant from each of the companies but expanded to include 38 other Stellantis and GM facilities.

The enlarged strike affected 18 GM distribution centers that employ a total of 3,475 workers and 20 Stellantis centers with 2,150 UAW workers. The standoff comes at a time of broader labor unrest and has fueled speculations of prolonged disruptions in production and the supply chain.

The UAW has demanded a 40% wage increase over four years, which is an amount that union officials say matches the pay increase of the three companies’ top executives over the



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

Workers from the United Auto Workers union expanded their targeted strike against General Motors, Ford and Stellantis. The union is demanding a 40% wage increase over the next four years.

same time period. The union has also sought to end tiered benefit packages, receive payment plans that have a cost-of-living adjustment, create more profit sharing, make new retirement plans, improve retirement benefits and attain higher job security.

Shawn Fain, the president of the UAW, noted that the distance in pay between the automakers’ top executives and the auto worker reflects increasing economic inequality in the United States.

“This is what’s wrong with our economy, and this is what’s wrong with America right now. The billionaire class keeps taking more and more, and the working class keeps getting left behind,” he stated.

Ford has made concessions in these areas, and despite progress in negotiation, the company stated that it still has “significant gaps to close” on economic issues before it can reach a new labor agreement with the union.

“At GM and Stellantis, it’s a completely different story,” Fain said. Stellantis and GM have made little to no concessions in the negotiations.

When the strike started, the automakers offered to raise pay to around 14.5-20% over four years, including lump-sum payments and job security for workers who lost positions. However, Fain insisted that the union would not settle for less than the 40% they seek.

The GM Cincinnati Parts

Distribution Center, located in West Chester, is a part of the 38-plant expansion of the strikes. The plant employs 123 people and accounts for \$10.3 million in wages every year, which the union hopes can increase.

During the strike, workers are set to receive about \$500 a week in pay, which is well short of what they earn while they are working. As a result, millions of dollars in wages may become removed from the economy.

Many politicians have come out in support of the UAW, including representatives from Ohio. Senator Sherrod Brown has posted on his social media that he stands with the UAW and is calling on the auto manufacturers to make a fair deal with the workers.

“I am among the most pro-labor Republicans in the U.S. Senate,” Senator J.D. Vance said. He showed his support of auto workers in Ohio and throughout the country.

Biden walked with the union yesterday in Michigan, joining workers on the picket lines to show his support for their strike and urging workers to “stick with it.” Former president Donald Trump is skipping the second Republican debate tonight to meet with striking autoworkers in Michigan and address the issue in an event there.

Fed Leaves Interest Rates Unchanged

BY PETER MELAHN
Staff Writer

The Federal Reserve opted to leave interest rates unchanged after meeting last Wednesday, signaling the central bank’s optimism that the U.S. economy is continuing to cool from historic levels of inflation following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell announced the decision last week reaffirming the central bank’s aim of achieving a “soft landing” for the U.S. economy following a sustained presence of historically high interest rates from post-COVID-19 inflation.

In their meeting, the Federal Reserve noted that recent economic activity was “expanding at a solid pace,” differing from the “moderate” description seen in previous meetings. It also stated that job gains have “slowed in recent months but remain strong,” though positive changes in employment were described as “robust” before.

The causes of recent high inflation rates vary, but most notably include government stimuli to invigorate the economy and pandemic-related supply chain issues causing prices of many consumer goods to rise. Higher interest

rates on loans for consumers are meant to slow down economic activity by making borrowing more expensive, thereby decreasing demand for consumer goods.

The Federal Reserve’s goal for the Consumer Price Index measured inflation is to be at or below 2%. Inflation hit a post-pandemic high of 9.1% from June to July of 2022 and has continued to decline. The central bank seeks to return inflation and unemployment rates to their targets and to keep them there permanently.

To hold inflation and unemployment at steady target rates, interest rates must be held at a neutral rate, which the Fed continues to work towards. It is believed this neutral rate will be higher than it has been historically.

Inflation has taken a noticeable toll on many Americans, with many noticing increases in prices on goods they consume on a daily or weekly basis. The inflation rate for August, around which the Fed was basing its interest rate decision, was 3.7%.

This means the prices of many consumer goods — in a broad set of categories including food, drugs and energy — were, on average, about 3.7% higher this August than they were in Aug. 2022. Though

this is a lot closer to the Fed’s goal of 2%, an inflation rate of 3.7% is still noticeable to many Americans.

“I’m worried for the consumer,” University of Chicago economist and a former chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisers Tomas Philipson said.

“People are hit on both fronts — lower real wages and higher rates,” he added.

A higher neutral rate may have implications for the future of the economy as well. A higher standard for interest rates would make borrowing more expensive in the long run. Not only would taking out a loan to buy a house or a car be more expensive for those seeking to make that kind of purchase, but business investment may also slow.

As business and personal investors make sense of the past few months of inflation data, long-term Treasury yields have surged while major stock indexes such as the S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite have slid over the past several months. This indicates investors may be concerned that a higher neutral rate may hamper growth in the future.

“A soft landing is a primary objective... that’s what we’ve been trying to achieve all this time,” Powell said.



BY GAVIN STEELE
Guest Writer

A flock of sheep found their way into a greenhouse in Greece and ate more than 600 pounds of marijuana plants that were growing for medical use. The owner of the greenhouse said the sheep were “jumping higher than (the) goats” after consuming the greenery (Sept. 25).

Five flamingos were spotted wading on a Lake Michigan beach in Wisconsin. Wildlife experts believe that the flamingos were pushed north by strong winds from Hurricane Idalia (Sept. 23).

Fayis Nazer set a new Guinness World Record by drinking a Capri Sun in an impressive 8.02 seconds, becoming the first person to achieve this feat in under ten seconds. He took three seconds to unwrap the straw and puncture the pouch, and another five seconds to consume the drink (Sept. 22).



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

Convoluteds Cons Can't Cope

This September, I attended the Cincinnati Comic Expo, and when I did, I paid extra attention to the layout of the convention and how it allowed different aspects such as artist alley, concessions, guest signings, panels and fun and games to be seen and noticed by those who came as con-goers.

Though I am a person who only goes to a few conventions every so often, something I always take note of is the layout of the conventions and if they help the con-goers or not. The people who run conventions should be allowing all of the different sections to receive attention and not leave any sections in the dust. I have heard of many different conventions that deal with their layouts very effectively, while others have shown almost no effort in helping get people to what the convention has to offer and put their emphasis on one group over another.

This was not my first time observing the convention layout at the Cincinnati Comic

Expo since this was my third time attending. Much of the layout was changed to adapt with the future renovation of the Duke Energy Center. Additionally, to accommodate the renovations, the Cincinnati Comic Expo is being moved to the Sharonville Convention Center in October, rather than September.

From what I was able to observe, the changed layout of the Cincinnati Comic Expo this year was much more convenient than it was confusing. Even though the space was more spread out than normal, it actually helped areas such as the artist alley to have more visibility and foot traffic while not making it feel as cramped.

Another convenience was how they used their large space to their advantage by spreading out areas for photo ops, guest signings, concessions and more. The photo ops were seen in one corner of the convention center and in a small aisle on the opposite side of the building.

They separated the guest

signings more between guests who focus on different forms of media such as movies, anime, video games, etc. Doing that helps people find their niche easier.

Concessions appeared in several areas at the edges of the convention room so if you walked near any wall, you would always be close to something to eat, whether it be a food court-style restaurant or a small concession booth. The same thing applied with getting water. You could buy water there or, if you brought your own water bottle, there were free refill stations to use.

Another major convenience was the seating choices that let folks rest and not be stuck standing everywhere which is helpful, especially for older con-goers. At the Duke Energy Center specifically, there is a large overpass hallway known as the SkyPass for people to walk down and be showy or to sit down and have a break and watch the convention from a bird's eye view.

Finally, almost everywhere you went, there was a sign showing the available rooms for gaming and what panels were presenting that day. Additionally, they were very quick in giving out information about the locations of things, updates and hyping up the event year after year. The telecom was also very successful in alerting when times, such as signing up for the cosplay contest and privately paid guest signings in separate rooms, were occurring.

However, despite the conveniences I mentioned of the Cincinnati Comic Expo, it is making me ponder something about another incoming Ohio convention — GalaxyCon Columbus. Both a friend and someone I watch on YouTube went to an earlier GalaxyCon — GalaxyCon Austin — and they said that the layout was very confusing and poor. They said it was due to prioritizing the guest signings and having very little water and check-in facilities. The latter person, who vended at the

artist alley there, said she got almost no foot traffic or sales because of the poor placement of the artist alley in the back of the venue, making the con way more confusing than convenient.

Not every convention layout is going to be perfect, nor should it be, but the best way to make a convenient convention layout is to allow every attraction of a convention to be easily accessible and viewable. I hope that GalaxyCon Columbus follows these criteria when it takes place later this fall.



Joseph Hammann is a guest writer for *NewsWire*. They are a junior graphic design major from Columbia, Md.

Your Ideology is Just Hypocrisy

The West has fallen. I'm not speaking ironically, nor am I trolling. The West has, in fact, fallen from Olympus down to the gaping mouth of Hades. Do you want to know why the mighty West, the bastion of the White race and the exuberant epitome of the Aryan spirit, has crumbled beneath the feet of those who claim to champion its adventurous history, undeniable strength and domineering formidability?

It's not because, as the right would tell you, the Jews, gays and Blacks have taken over Hollywood and politics, nor because of supposed moral degradation or the loss of religious fervor.

No, no, no. The West has fallen because the right is unprincipled. These idiots have either gone mad or are completely confused about their ultimate ideological goal. On a Thursday afternoon, they will deny the Holocaust, and the following Sunday evening,

they will support the establishment of the Zionist entity in Palestine. Maybe on Labor Day, they'll shame workers for unionizing at some stupid coffee shop, and perhaps during the winter, they will go full-blown Leninist over some Canadian truckers.

The West has now faced a perplexing contradiction threatening its security and existence. That contradiction is between an evolving demographic of political beings that negate the West and the ideology of White self-preservation that has unified the Western world since the Third Reich.

But the Western conservative copes with this contradiction by mixing and matching, picking and choosing whatever narrative fits his vision for a White paradise and an all-encompassing ideology shielding him from guilt and cognitive dissonance. This fascist, this foe of freedom and individual will, is one lousy en-

emy. He is one lousy enemy because he cannot come to a unanimous foundation for his vision for the world amongst his peers. He is a charlatan who speaks from the heart but isn't able to communicate with sincerity; he is a hypocrite.

Proof of his hypocrisy is present in the type of men he follows. What kind of "blood and soil," closeted white supremacist follows and defends a mixed-race Muslim sex trafficker who runs a podcast promoting toxic masculinity (Andrew Tate), a president who is degenerate in all senses of the word (Donald Trump), a Zionist who is a master of innuendo (Ben Shapiro) and a pundit who promotes masculinity but cries at every damn thing (Jordan Peterson).

These people put conservative ideology on a pedestal despite that ideology's refusal to acknowledge their existence. Thus, the Western man lacks the willingness and the strength to go all the way

with their convictions if those are their champions of the Western spirit, masculinity, White unity and so on. These celebrities are not the ones a conservative should look up to, nor are they fit for a true conservative — the conservative that hates the Jew, the Black and the homosexual.

I can already hear the whimpering now: "But Waleed, not all conservatives follow these men! The conservatives who like and follow these people do not want to kill minorities." And I say to that: sure. That is true, undeniably. But when you use the same rhetoric, make the same enemies and protect the same majority demographic, no other connection can exist.

The conservatives are not ready to change the world according to their dreams if they cannot agree on who to kill and who to spare. Thus, the West has fallen since the conservative has let into his midst those whom he claims

to be lesser. If you are a conservative and reading this, I urge you to either remove those feelings of guilt, fear and shame in your heart for having your beliefs or become principled and steadfast in your creed and make yourself an open enemy for me and for all to oppose. Either make this choice or suffer forever in pitiful silence and subjugate yourself in front of enemies you wish you could destroy.

But until then, you are weak, and then the West is ours to conquer.



Waleed Majid is a staff writer for *NewsWire*. He is a Philosophy, Politics and the Public major from Cincinnati.

THE STAFF

Editor-in-Chief
Chloe Salvesson

Print Managing Editor
Katie Sanchez

Multimedia Managing Editor
Marty Dubecky

Campus News Editor
Jackson Hare

World News Editor
Justin Malone

Opinions & Editorials Editor
Grace Hamilton

Sports Editor
Ben Dickson

Arts & Entertainment Editor
Griffin Brammer

Back Page Editor
Kayla Ross

Head Copy Editor
Tess Dankoski

Copy Editors
Stella DeMarco, Marty Dubecky, Peter Melahn, Kyra Hudson, Laney Konz, Addison Burke

Staff Writers
Waleed Majid, Kyra Hudson, Clare McKinley, Peter Melahn, Jack Pluth, Joseph Nichols, Spencer Tracy, Pat Gainor

Education & Enrichment Coordinator
Jesse Dolojan

Advisor
John Stowell

Advertising
All inquiries should be directed to the Business Manager, Savanna Riley, by email at newswire@xavier.edu or at www.xaviernewswire.com

Mission Statement

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.

For Your Information

Xavier Newswire is published weekly throughout the school year, except during vacations and final exams, by the students of Xavier University, 3800 Victory Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45207.



I Want Less “More Xavier,” More Or Less

I’m alarmed at and skeptical of the absolute lack of effort in some of the endeavors our university allegedly wants to address.

I am not condemning the administration for exploring expansion into empty spaces in the Jesuit education market and am an adamant proponent of our biggest leap of faith yet: opening an osteopathic medical school. Xavier is a place a student seeks out because they want to be part of something not found anywhere else. Creating a Jesuit osteopathic medical school noses us ahead of our most symmetrically structured competitors: Midwestern Jesuit institutions with Big East athletics such as Marquette and Creighton.

The changes we make should translate to investment in becoming a pioneer in higher education in terms of diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility.

On Sept. 18, Xavier’s Student Government approved LGBTQ+ Alliance’s request to become a University-Affiliated Organization, meaning the university is obligated to financially support Alliance via the student activity fee pool. This codification of the valued presence of an LGBTQ+ organization on a Jesuit campus truly expands Xavier to become inclusive to groups that have traditionally felt marginalized in similar

communities.

Unfortunately, some pursuits of the university, confirmed as possibilities by members of the administration team, seem to be aiming towards placing Xavier in national headlines. These moves may bring publicity, but do they really fulfill Jesuit values?

For example, Vice President for Institutional Strategy and Director of Athletics Greg Christopher called the possibility of adding a football team “a model of using sports teams to boost enrollment.” He also publicly stated the interest of following a model similar to the Pioneer League, which does not permit football programs to award scholarships. I am not suggesting we invest a quarter-million dollars in Quiditch, but with the amount of debt and investment in other ventures Xavier has made, football could not be funded at a level that would improve the financial health of the university.

For example, according to an article in its student paper, Big East counterpart Villanova University spent \$6.6 million on football in 2016, while generating under \$1 million in gross revenue from gridiron events. The Wildcats conquered the bracket the same year, winning a men’s basketball national championship and aiding the univer-

sity in generating about \$11 million in revenue, while only spending \$9.5 million. In a year where the signature program of the university, men’s basketball, won a national championship, the athletic department lost around \$20 million.

Xavier does not have an on-campus football stadium, a practice facility and adequate locker room, nor training facilities to realistically support a competitive football program.

The only sport at Xavier that turns a profit — men’s basketball — has never won a national title, nor even advanced to the Final Four. The addition of football would take investment opportunities away from more academically exceptional yet underprivileged students.

The average cost to attend Xavier, according to the United States Department of Education, is \$31,462 after aid. According to the New York Times, only 2.7% percent of students come from families that make less than \$20,000 annually. Some readers may think this is a number that protects the “prestigious” reputation of Xavier. However, at a Jesuit institution, the definition of prestige should be identifying talented people, regardless of socioeconomic status, to give students space to change our world for the better. Scholarships for those

who deserve to be at Xavier but simply cannot afford it is actually rooted in justice and love.

Xavier could also advance funding to further the social missions it claims to pursue. By consolidating Xavier Police (XUPD) with the Norwood Police Department, Xavier could save on many expenses, such as officer salaries, facility costs, utilities for Flynn Hall and patrol cars. As valuable as the incredible staff of XUPD is, according to their own crime log for 2023, over half of XUPD responses have been in assistance of other departments. As much as I genuinely love the relationships I’ve formed with each and every XUPD officer I’ve encountered, it could be beneficial to allow one or two XUPD officers to focus solely on campus issues while working for Norwood PD, and to have the rest of the force join Norwood PD to serve the surrounding communities.

Additionally, the Digital Innovation, Film and Television (DIFT) program could become housed in Flynn Hall as opposed to the current location within Brockman that was initially meant to house the program until its own building could be constructed.

Additional programs that would establish an intersection between “More Xavier” and an improved Xavier would be committing to a

more efficient recycling program and expanding the existing amount of bins on campus that separate plastic and paper.

Furthermore, providing an expanded selection of ramps would show a desire by the university to optimize the experience of all who visit and reside on campus.

At this point, as we approach the 200th anniversary of our university, a time when there will be fewer college-aged students than ever before, the investments of time and treasure need to be intentionally geared towards making us THE university that cares for the whole person in every person.



Ben Dickison is the Sports Editor for *NewsWire*. He is a sophomore Exploratory major from Louisville.

Victory Perk Lacks Perks

Victory Perk, a coffee shop located at the heart of Xavier’s campus in Gallagher Student Center (GSC), is frequently visited by many sleep-deprived students looking for a bite to eat and a cup of coffee. It is the most accessible coffee shop for Xavier students compared to the long walk up the hill to Starbucks. However, it also has a reputation for serving some questionable coffee to its customers.

As a first-year in my first semester at Xavier, I had high hopes about its convenience and its wide array of flavored syrups. Who doesn’t get excited about a lavender-flavored latte? I urged my suitemate to come with me, and we eagerly sprinted to GSC. I ordered an iced latte with oat milk, and by the looks of the long line behind us, I felt that the little shop had some promise. I drank it throughout the day without much thought, oth-

er than the nagging thought that my drink had a slightly sour taste. It wasn’t until later that I regretted my decision. To both mine and my roommates’ horror, my friend and I were violently sick that night, presumably because of the oat milk, but we tried to give them the benefit of the doubt.

Outside of this freak occurrence, though, I have heard nothing but disappointing news about Victory Perk’s coffee from my peers: the flavor was lacking and had a pungent taste to it or their customer service experience was dissatisfactory. I decided it was time to investigate where Victory Perk had gone wrong and search for some explanation as to why many avoid getting their morning pick-me-up there. Most importantly, I intended to find out if Victory Perk was worth going back to again. This is my analysis, formed through

multiple visits, research and the expertise of a friend who just so happens to be a long-time worker at Starbucks.

The preparation of their drinks is one of the most disappointing aspects of the experience. Most trained baristas are taught that an espresso machine should be used for drinks such as lattes, americanos, macchiatos, cappuccinos, etc. It is the only way these drinks can be considered as such, as they are defined by their use of espresso. However, in the times I have ordered a latte, they have used their pitcher of cold brew, usually prepared 12 hours in advance, as cold brew should be. However, it does not belong in a latte. So what I was actually receiving was a coffee with milk and a flavor shot, not what I had actually ordered. But why else is this significant?

To make matters worse,

Victory Perk employees tend to leave the cold brew pitcher sitting out on the counter out of convenience. However, this is a problematic practice. Cold brew, as is in the name, must be kept cold regularly. Otherwise, it’s just brew — and a questionable one at that. Using poorly maintained cold brew in a commonly-ordered drink that requires espresso will cause a sour, unpleasant flavor. Talk about leaving a bad taste in your mouth.

The company that Victory Perk uses, Crimson Cup Coffee, provides high-quality arabica beans. If you are unfamiliar, they are one of the two main types of coffee beans, the other being robusta. Generally, arabica beans are supposed to have a smoother, sweeter taste compared to robusta. However, I think it’s fair to say the quality of the coffee still suffers quite a bit despite the products Victory

Perk uses.

Whether the employees are not being trained properly or they simply just don’t care, I’m not sure. However, if you are looking for a good cup of coffee, maybe it’s time to dust off that Keurig you haven’t touched since you moved in, or maybe the walk to Starbucks isn’t as daunting now compared to your other options. If you’re going to treat yourself to the brew you desperately need, you might as well do it right.



Hannah Kremer is an intern for *NewsWire*. She is a first-year English major from Cincinnati.

INTRODUCING THE
INTERNS OF
2023–2024

DOMINIC DEGRINNEY
AUDREY ELWOOD
DYLAN PAULSON
WILL COFFMAN
HANNAH KREMER

XU Volleyball Goes Bluejay Hunting

BY SPENCER TRACY
Staff Writer

The 11th-ranked Creighton Blue Jays came into Cintas Center Saturday night with the hopes of building on their hot streak, having won eight of their last nine matches. Little did Creighton know, they would be part of Xavier volleyball history with multiple set comeback victories, leading to the Muskies unbelievable triumph over the Blue Jays.

Creighton took care of business, beginning with a dominant 12-3 run to open the first set, although Xavier answered with four straight points of their own keeping the set within reach. Reaching game point, Xavier refused to go down without a fight, answering with an ace from Senior libero Stevie Wolf, who crunched the deficit to 24-21.

Despite the strong effort from the Muskies, they dropped the first set 25-21. Another back and forth start to set two didn't last long after Creighton scored five straight, stretching the lead to 17-11.

Xavier answered as usual with seven of the next eight points going in their favor, evening the score at 18. All notched at 21, another timely Xavier run completed the



Photo courtesy of goxavier.edu

Last Saturday, Xavier volleyball collected its first triumph over a ranked foe since 2007. It was also their first win in program history against the Creighton Bluejays, who are perennially picked atop the Big East standings.

comeback victory thanks to two straight ace serves from redshirt sophomore Emma Grace. Xavier won the match 25-21, tying the series 1-1.

A crucial third set looked gloomy for the Musketeers late after another Creighton 4-0 run expanding the lead 22-15. Their powerful offense was on display as they held on to win the third set 25-17, preventing any momentum

swinging towards the Musketeer side, a critical element in their second set loss.

A Credit to this Musketeer squad, they continued to fight through the Blue Jays dominant offense by presenting the Jays with their own power. In the fourth set, an 8-7 Creighton lead soon became a 14-9 Xavier lead thanks to three kills from Emma Grace all set up by Graduate setter

Carrigan O'Reilly. Neither team took control the rest of the match, allowing Xavier to take another nail biter, winning 25-20 and forcing one final set to decide it all.

With one set remaining, Cintas Center was rocking in hopes of a wild upset.

Both teams struggled to separate themselves from each other on the scoreboard, displaying how desperate each

team was to win this dog fight of a match. With just a 12-10 lead, Xavier could smell the upset, needing just three points to secure the win. This game was far from over as everyone could smell the Blue Jay offense just waiting to power their way to victory and leave Xavier fans heartbroken.

However, redshirt sophomore and outside hitter Anna Taylor wasn't in the mood for a comebacks, slamming a set into the hardwood floor starting the Xavier scoring trend. Two more Xavier points followed, and the Musketeers took down the Creighton Blue Jays for the first time in program history.

Emma Grace and Stevie Wolf won Big East Women's Volleyball weekly honors for their dominant performances. Grace collected an impressive 15 kills and five service aces, while Wolf stacked up 29 perfect receptions, 25 digs and one big time service ace.

Xavier will next play on the road against Villanova and Georgetown, hoping to build on the momentum coming off this historic win. As for the Musketeers and Bluejays, a primetime Friday night rematch is slated for November 17 in Omaha.

Rapi-NO! It Ertz to Bid Farewell to USWNT Stars

BY PAT GAINOR
Staff Writer

The U.S. Women's National Soccer Team bade farewell to longtime midfielder Julie Ertz and striker Megan Rapinoe with two international friendly victories against South Africa last week.

Both players made it clear that this season would be their last representing America on the pitch, with Rapinoe announcing her planned retirement ahead of the Women's World Cup and Ertz announcing afterwards on Sept. 1st. In two emotional matches at TQL Stadium and Soldier Field, both players got a rousing send-off.

Ertz, an Arizona native, played collegiate soccer from 2010 to 2013 at Santa Clara University, where she led the Broncos to two NCAA Women's Soccer Tournament berths and two selections to the NCAA All-American First Team. In 2014, she was selected third overall by the Chicago Red Stars of the NWSL, where she would play until she was traded to Angel City FC in 2021. In 2015, after many successful appearances in friendlies, she was selected to the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup Roster, cementing her roster spot on the USWNT.

Rapinoe, who grew up in



JAMIE photograph



Photos courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

Last Friday night, TQL Stadium was ablaze with appreciation for two-time World Cup Champion Julie Ertz (left) and Megan Rapinoe (right), who stands third all-time in assists for the USWNT.

Redding, Calif., burst onto the scene at Portland University. Her early success cemented her spot on the Women's National team roster in 2006, aged just 21 years; and though back-to-back ACL injuries caused her to miss almost three years of action, she became a centerpiece of the national team for the subsequent decade and change, helping the USA to a gold-medal in the 2012 London Olympics and back-to-back FIFA Women's World Cup Championships in 2015 and

2019. In the latter World Cup, she was awarded the Golden Boot and the Golden Ball for her performance, topped off by her game-winning goal in the USA's victory over the Netherlands in the final.

In Ertz's final match, the USA put pressure on South Africa's own 18 throughout, before a corner kick by Lindsey Horan was headed in by Lynn Williams to open the scoring. Less than two minutes later, Horan forced a turnover, leading Alex Morgan to tee up Trinity Rodman

on the breakaway and give the USA a 2-0 lead. In the 36th minute, Ertz took her curtain call, being substituted out to a raucous standing ovation of 22,000. A second goal by Williams before the half secured the 3-0 win.

"I gave everything I had to the sport that I love," she said after announcing her retirement. "With that I can walk away with no regrets because while I gave soccer every ounce of myself, soccer gave me even more, and for that I'll always be thankful."

Ertz closed her international career with 20 goals, and started all 17 World Cup matches she played in.

The U.S. Women's National Team returned to the pitch on Sunday at Soldier Field for Megan Rapinoe's send-off. In the 18th minute, Alex Morgan beat a defender with a challenge before sending a cross for Trinity Rodman to send into the net to score early. In the second half, a corner by Rapinoe was deflected by the South Africa goalkeeper, but Emily Sonnett got to the ball before it was cleared and sent it in for her second career international goal. Shortly after, Rapinoe took her exit in the 54th minute to a standing ovation.

"I know that I mean a lot to the game," she said following the 2-0 victory, "But to have this night come and to actually feel it and see it — from my teammates, from our staff, and certainly from the fans, who have been such a huge part of our success on and off the field, really — it was very special."

Rapinoe's career with the Women's National Team is the 4th-longest ever at 17 years and 61 days. She is ranked tenth all-time in goals scored internationally with 63 and third all-time in assists with 73, tying legend Abby Wambach.

New Contract Ends Writers' Strikes

BY GRIFFIN BRAMMER
AND WILL COFFMAN
*Arts & Entertainment
Editor and Newswire Intern*

The 148-day writers' strike ended at 12:01 a.m. this morning.

Hollywood producers, studios and streaming platforms met with the Writers Guild of America (WGA) to create a contract that would end their 148-day strike. This Sunday, the negotiations took place privately between WGA's negotiating committee and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP), where they reached a tentative deal.

Since May 2, Hollywood has been on a temporary shutdown, an action initiated by WGA in an effort to

obtain better benefits for its members. Writers were soon joined by Actors from the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) on July 14. Their inclusion was due to concerns regarding the use of artificial intelligence and low residual payments for their work on streaming services.

Members of WGA's East and West board approved AMPTP's contract and its three-year agreement. Details of the agreement included a viewership-based residual system for streaming services, better residuals and access to healthcare and a promise to refrain from recognizing artificial intelligence-generated content as source material. Officials from WGA are ada-

mant that all union members will be happy with the results.

"We can say, with great pride, that this deal is exceptional, with meaningful gains and protections for writers in every sector of the membership," the negotiating committee for WGA wrote to its members in a union-wide email after the contract was announced.

As of yesterday, WGA must still hold a vote with all its members to determine whether the contract will be ratified. The vote will be held Oct. 2-9. If WGA's members do not unanimously vote to ratify the contract, the strikes will resume. The guild has expressed that all members may return to work during the ratification process. Picketing was suspended last Sunday.

While the board for SAG-AFTRA has not reached a deal with AMPTP, they have expressed pride for their sister union's success and assured that they will be involved in the finalization of AMPTP's contract.

"We applaud (WGA's) dedication, diligence and unwavering solidarity over the last five months and are proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with you as creative partners in the entertainment industry," SAG-AFTRA's official account posted on X last Sunday. "We look forward to reviewing



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

the terms of the WGA and AMPTP's tentative agreement. And we remain ready to resume our own negotiations with the AMPTP as soon as they are prepared to engage on our proposals in a meaningful way."

The deal comes at an opportune time as the strikes have caused the most disruption to the economy of the entertainment industry since the COVID-19 pandemic. New York has seen a loss of 17,000 jobs.

In an effort to fundraise for their cause, many actors who are members of SAG-AFTRA have begun holding online auctions offering various forms of activities or memorabilia for sale. The main goal of the auction is to raise money for crew members who have not been able to work due to the complete stoppage

from the writers' and actors' strikes.

For instance, Bob Odenkirk, known for his role as Saul Goodman in *Breaking Bad* and *Better Call Saul*, is auctioning off a dinner with him and comedian David Cross. Fans can bid for Adam Scott of *Parks and Recreation* fame to walk their dog or solve the *New York Times* crossword with *Orange Is the New Black* star Natasha Lyone.

Several auctions have bids ranging in the thousands of dollars. WGA and AMPTP's tentative deal has caused no change to the auctions according to the Union Solidarity Coalition, the main group behind the fundraising effort.

"We want to think big about how we can support each other in the face of a national labor crisis," the group wrote on their website.



Photo courtesy of pexels.com

SAG-AFTRA still has not made a deal with the AMPTP. Members have turned to auctioning services to support both strikes.

Dive Deep Into An Indie Game Full of Depth

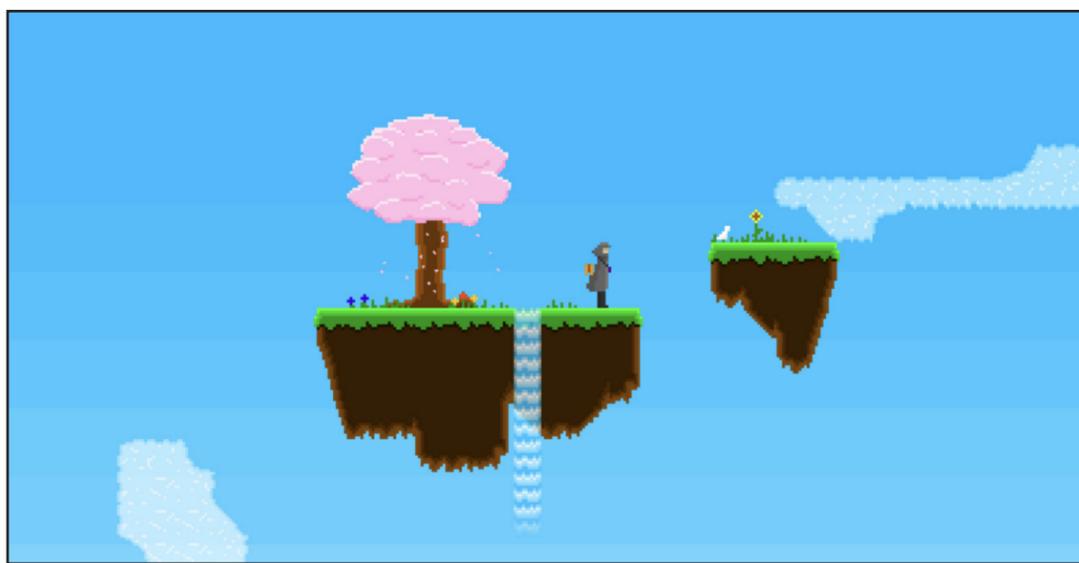
BY JOSEPH NICHOLS
Staff Writer

Cool Math Games was the ultimate survival tool for students to pass time in their classes throughout grade school and high school. The seemingly educational name was enough to fool firewalls and school administrators from placing it on the blocked website list. While our generation has mostly moved on (except for the occasional Smith Scholar playing *Papa's Pizzeria*), a diamond in the rough game named *Amidst the Sky* might leave you with more than just a few minutes of wasted class time.

Amidst the Sky is an indie web browser game made by Dutch game developer Casper van Dommelen. Although the game can be played on the Cool Math Games website, van Dommelen created it independently.

"It's fun to design levels and I also make them for myself. I like these kinds of games... so I just make more of them," van Dommelen said.

A platforming game by design, *Amidst the Sky* allows players to begin the game by jumping across rocks and floating islands before entering mysterious temple ruins. A score begins as players make their way through the



Newswire photo courtesy of Joseph Nichols

According to Nichols, *Amidst the Sky* proves to be unlike anything seen on a website like Cool Math Games. Players engage in a platforming adventure, while also discovering messages about exploration and humanity.

ruins before eventually, access to the world is achieved. This is where the scale of the game becomes apparent: the further you explore, the more temple ruins and concealed buildings become unlocked.

As the title suggests, the cloaked avatar you control is quite literally amidst the sky. Players utilize clouds and air ducts, traveling to distant islands and temples. The world-building and endgame in *Amidst the Sky* both place prominence on the exploration of the uncharted and on the self.

"Those themes most certainly form a strong focus of the game, mostly explora-

tion... it's all about the world and how the player experiences it," van Dommelen said.

Throughout the entirety of the game, there is an emphasis on the beauty of the natural world paired with the player's individual journey. In both trekking to faraway temple ruins and the eventual completion of the game, players are invited to partake in a personal odyssey both literally and figuratively.

As players continue to traverse through the sky and onto floating islands, they fall frequently. For a platforming game, this is a necessity. However, while you are bound to fall, *Amidst the Sky* shows that

you are not always bound to get back up.

Falling in this game, especially towards the end, can erase a solid 10 or 15 minutes of mental focus and fortitude. However, much like human existence, it's not about how you fall, but rather how and why you get back up again. This is the reason for this game's beauty and covert truth: it's a commentary on the human experience.

In the game, frustrations are bound to mount during the final temple as falling is very common, wiping progress with even the slightest blunder. However, players have no obligation to finish the game.

In regards to the player within the game, van Dommelen stated, "You're quite insignificant in respect to the world: nature moves on without you, there's no other human other than you. Make of that what you will."

The world inside the game will continue whether you keep playing or not: through countless obstacles impeding your journey, life in *Amidst the Sky* is what you make of it.

The game is not meant to be easy and falling and restarting is more common than I'd like to admit. However, the game takes you across great distances in a way that pays homage to the beauty of the natural world.

Perhaps there's a hint of irony that an online browser game I first found on Cool Math Games contains such sincerity. Yet, in the frantic life of the day-to-day world of a college student, I'm content knowing that there will be a second chance as long as I keep going. Maybe that, too, is beautiful.

If you're interested in playing *Amidst the Sky* and van Dommelen's other browser games that I cannot recommend highly enough, search "Ferociter itch.io" and support a game developer who crafts an eccentric yet refreshing experience with every game.



Aries: Go to your 8:30 a.m. class. I know it's hard, but you signed up for this. You need to pass.



Taurus: You don't need more clothes. You need things like gas and groceries.



Gemini: If you need a Plan B, there are some for cheap on the XU 2026 Snap Story right now.



Cancer: Go to the HOLA Gala this weekend. Tickets are only \$15 on EngageXU.



Leo: Breakfast is the best meal of the day at the Caf. While you're on the way to your 8:30 a.m. class, get some fake eggs.



Virgo: You're not going to throw up. Drink some bubble water, close your eyes and be on your way.



Libra: Embrace the "Tube Girl" vibe. Strut mama, film in public. Who cares. You're hot.



Scorpio: If you can't stand someone in one of your classes, I think you should just tell them. You're paying to be there, so why not create a little drama to stay awake?



Sagittarius: Stop sniffing in class. Get it together with some Tylenol Cold and Flu AM or skip the class.



Capricorn: I am adoring the Travis Kelce and Taylor Swift memes. You should be those two for Halloween with your delusionship!



Aquarius: Boygenius is releasing an EP Oct. 13. This is not a drill.



Pisces: Why did we ever let the energy of 2016 die? All I want is for music like "We Don't Talk Anymore" to be on the charts again.



COMIC BY BRIANA DUNN

How to Make Your Roommate Hate You

BY WILL COFFMAN, NEWSWIRE INTERN

There's no doubt that college is a fun time full of brand-new adventures, but let's face it; even the most exciting campuses can feel boring. The days move by one after the other, work can stress you out, you move from class to class and it all becomes repetitive, which is why it's so important to take some time, have fun and let out your inner jokester. Harmless pranks are a great way to have fun and can really bring a friend group together. Below are three pranks you should consider adding to your schedule when you find yourself bored during a busy college day.

The first prank is a certified classic: the early alarm clock prank. This one's very simple and perfect for Xavier students in suites or apartments. Put an alarm clock in your roommate's room, set it up early, for example 4 a.m. and wait a few hours. You'll of course have to wake up early as well to see the results, but once the prank is over and all is forgiven, you and your roommate now have a lot of time to do something productive, like homework, cleaning or exercising. In fact, this prank could help start a trend of your roommate waking up early which will be beneficial for them in the long run, so don't be afraid to ask for a thank you or two from your roommate once all is said and done.

Another great prank is swapping closets. This one will take some time, so for any reader out there who lacks patience, you might want to skip forward. However, for those of you who have some time on your hands, rearrange your clothes into your roommates closet and vice versa. When they wake up in the morning, they will be in for quite a shock. Who knows? There's no requirement to change it back, so feel free to just make the swap permanent.

Lastly, this article would like to dedicate a prank to our crosstown sibling, the University of Cincinnati. There are a few great ways you could prank them, such as a cookie party -- where you make Blue Blob shaped cookies-- to remind them that even our secondary mascot is cooler than theirs. But one great option would be a football party, where you dedicate a Saturday to the great sport that is college football and give each party attendee a name tag with their favorite team's records on it. Cincinnati fans will likely point out if their team has a winning record or talk about their bowl appearances. However, this pride will soon be humbled after you reveal the statistic that Xavier football has been undefeated since 1973.