



COVID-19 Cases Climb on Campus

Students' return to campus coincides with a national rise in COVID-19 infections

BY CLARE MCKINLEY
Staff Writer

Over the past two weeks, Xavier has seen an increase in COVID-19 cases reflective of the recent outbreaks in surrounding counties and the rest of the country.

The first case reported to Xavier COVID Support Services was on Aug. 22. Since then, there have been 89 student-reported cases.

Students can get tested in one of two ways. They can contact Xavier COVID Support Services via email and schedule an in-person test at the HUB or take an at-home test. Senior marketing and entrepreneurship major Jared Agnew started to feel sick last week and said it was easy to get everything sorted out.

"I contacted COVID Support and they told me to take an at-home test which I got for free from Flynn Hall," Agnew stated.

After it came back positive, he went into five days of isolation, causing him to miss classes and hanging out with friends.

"It's not ideal, COVID has made me fall behind in schooling, but it is early in the semester and I have been messaging with my professors. I don't feel like I'm in too bad of a position and will definitely recover with their help," he reflected.

The Center for Disease Control reports that in recent weeks there has been an 18.8% increase in hospital admissions and a 17.6% increase in death as a result of COVID-19. These trends have been suspected to be the result of the hotter weather,



The first few weeks of the 2023-24 school year have been marked by an uptick in COVID-19 cases among students, faculty and staff.

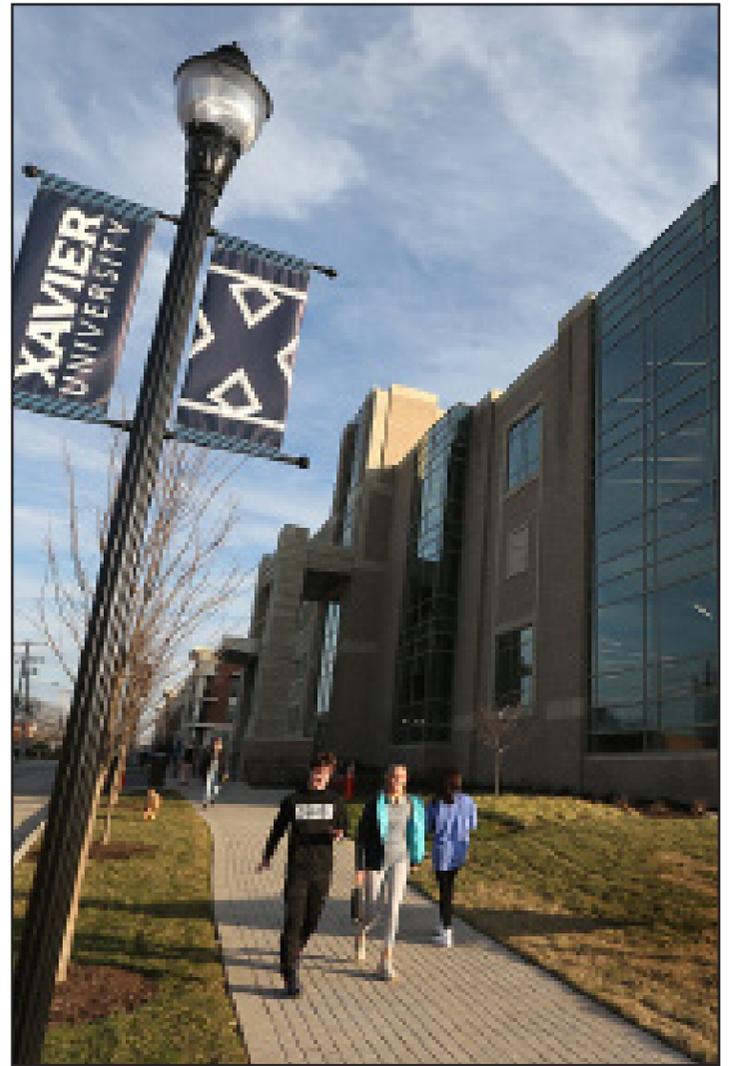
increased travel for summer, children going back to school and a new variant of Omicron, BA.2.86.

Assistant Director of Health & Wellness Administration Marybeth Sullivan recognized that these new cases go beyond just Xavier, sharing that as of Aug. 25, Hamilton County has been classified at a medium level, meaning there are between 10 and 20 new cases weekly.

"I don't think this is just a Xavier thing. We now have

a couple years of data that helped us anticipate the surge we recently experienced. With the new academic year and returning to campus from all parts of the U.S. and locations abroad, we have consistently seen an uptick in our positive cases being reported through the first few weeks of school," Sullivan said.

COVID-19 trends over the past couple years and weeks suggest it may never fully go away, especially as new variants emerge. Xavier and oth-



Photos courtesy of @xavieruniversity on Instagram

er universities must adapt to surges in cases all the time, according to Sullivan.

"I have worked with COVID Support since the inception of these services. I would say that the spike is less significant and how we respond to it has also changed. COVID-19 will likely continue to exist in the population, and will change in mutations just like the flu, but it is no longer considered a global health emergency," she said. "Xavier will continue to em-

brace the recommendations of the CDC for COVID-19."

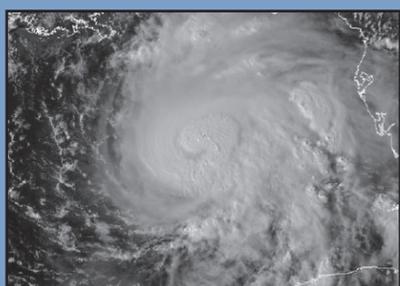
As the semester goes on and COVID-19 spreads, Agnew gave his two-cents to any students who start to feel sick.

"Rest now and worry about school later. Make sure to communicate with your professors, and when you start feeling better, you'll be able to do your best work. It's not worth forcing it to get an assignment in on time. Most important thing is to focus on yourself," he said.

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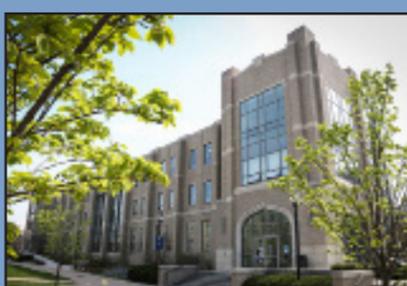
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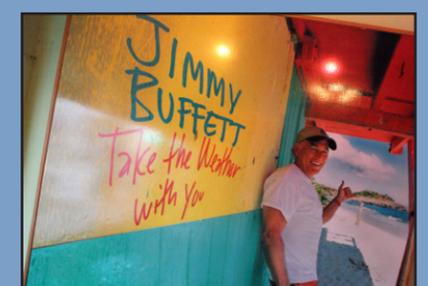
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Hurricane Idalia Devastated Southeast

Beginning in the Gulf of Mexico, the storm tore through Florida, Georgia and Carolinas

BY ISAAH MIESLE AND JUSTIN MALONE
Guest Writer and World News Editor

Hurricane Idalia, the third hurricane and ninth named storm of the summer season, ravaged multiple states in the Southeast, leaving three reported dead and thousands without power. Now classified as a post-tropical cyclone, Idalia drifted out to the Atlantic Ocean on Aug. 31 with winds around 65 mph on a path moving toward the island of Bermuda.

Idalia, which made landfall near Keaton Beach in Florida's Big Bend coastline as a high-end Category 3 storm on Aug. 30, brought sustained wind speeds howling around 125 mph and storm surge waters around 16 feet, according to the National Hurricane Center. The hurricane created extensive flash flooding as it passed through Florida while damaging trees, submerging neighborhoods and downing electrical wires across the state.

Idalia then continued north into Georgia and the Carolinas, with large amounts of rain and heavy winds generating flash flooding throughout the states, leaving more than 300,000 people without power in the four states after the storm. According to Power-

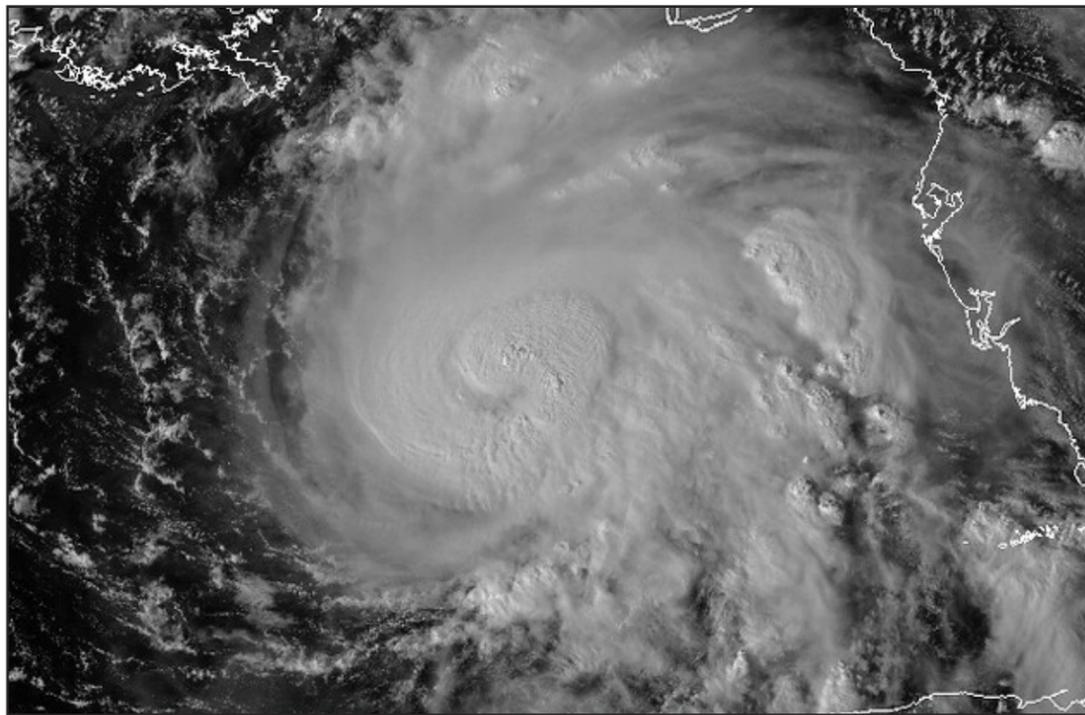


Photo courtesy of flickr.com

Hurricane Idalia reached Category 4 hurricane status, leading to severe damage throughout the Southeastern U.S. The hurricane led to power outages, extremely high winds and heavy flooding.

Outage.us, which tracks electrical outages across the U.S., around 20,000 people in Florida remained without power yesterday.

Idalia initially formed in the Gulf of Mexico on Aug. 27, becoming a hurricane as it passed near the western tip of Cuba. Experts believe that abnormally warm sea surface temperatures caused the storm to intensify rapidly.

"The town, I mean, it's devastated. It's probably 50 or 60 homes here, totally destroyed. I'm a lucky one, a few limbs on

my house. But we're going to build back. We're going to be strong," James Nobles, a resident of Horseshoe Beach in the central part of Florida's Big Bend, said.

A 59-year old man and a 40-year old man died in Florida from driving in dangerous weather conditions. Another person was killed in Georgia as he attempted to dismantle a fallen tree during the storm.

On Aug. 30, President Joe Biden spoke with the governors of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North

Carolina to offer the federal government's full support for the emergency response. He signed an emergency declaration on Aug. 27 to offer federal support and economic aid to assist with recovery efforts in affected areas.

A report from Moody's Analytics, which provides research on economic analysis and risk management, estimated that Idalia created between \$12 billion and \$20 billion of economic damages and disruptions.

Biden, along with First

Lady Jill Biden, visited Florida and took an aerial tour of Live Oak, a town hit hard by the storm, and met with local community members and first responders leading recovery efforts.

"All the officials from Florida, we want to thank them," Biden said after meeting with local and state officials, including Senator Rick Scott, who represents Florida.

"Jill and I spent time with the incredible first responders and folks who ran toward the danger instead of away from the danger when this storm was coming and when it hit," he remarked.

During his trip, Biden met with Scott but was unable to meet with Florida governor Ron DeSantis. DeSantis delivered Chick-Fil-A to families affected by the storm in a different part of Florida.

Biden acknowledged the impact that climate change had on spurring Idalia and more frequent extreme weather events, including the recent wildfires in Maui.

"I don't think anybody can deny the impact of the climate crisis anymore," Biden said.

"Just look around — historic floods, more intense droughts, extreme heat, significant wildfires. (These events) have caused significant damage like we've never seen before," he added.

Military Officials Seize Power in Gabon Coup

BY JACK PLUTH
Guest Writer

On Aug. 30, several military leaders of Gabon led a televised address to the nation stating that they had successfully seized power and taken control of the presidential palace. The group placed President Ali Bongo Ondimba on house arrest and named a new leader after the central African nation declared that Bongo had won a third term.

A coalition of Gabonese military officers calling themselves "The Committee of Transition and the Restoration of Institution" contest-

ed the results of the election almost immediately.

Declaring that they represented the armed forces, the coup members announced that election results were nullified, which the opposition claimed as fraudulent. They also stated that borders were closed and state institutions would be dissolved after they executed the coup following the tense election to extend the Bongo family's 55-year hold of the country's leadership.

The coalition seized control of several government buildings and in an evening were the *de facto* leaders of their nation. The military of-

ficials in the coup claimed that they took power to keep the peace within the nation and reported that General Brice Oligui Nguema is Bongo's replacement. Nguema was sworn in as the interim president of Gabon last Monday.

Bongo appealed for help in a video that was allegedly filmed from his residence, in which he told supporters to "raise your voice" in disputing the legitimacy of the coup.

Bongo's position in office did not come without controversy. His father, Omar Bongo, led Gabon from 1967 until his death in 2009, and Bongo's extended rule led to the family's longstanding rule.

The near-dynastic succession of Ali Bongo as head of state has also garnered criticism from residents of Gabon for his policies. Common critics of the Bongo presidency note that the family has done very little to utilize the rich natural resources of their nation in a manner that benefits common citizens.

These feelings of discontent came to head immediately after the August presidential elections in Gabon. The August election saw Ali Bongo aim to defend his incumbency from the challenger, Albert Ondo Ossa. Before the first votes were cast, supporters of



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

Deposed president Ali Bongo Ondimba was placed on house arrest during a coup d'etat staged in Gabon on Aug. 30.

Ossa expressed concerns that many national polling centers were purposely striking him from the ballot.

Foreign reporters had also allegedly been banned from entering Gabon during the election process. Incumbent Ali Bongo won with 64.27% of the votes to challenger Albert Ondo Ossa's 30.77%.

The United Nations expressed disapproval of the abrupt transfer of power. Similarly, White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby referred to the events as "deeply concerning."

Chinese officials also noted their displeasure over the situation and that they intended to continue to observe future events that unfolded in Gabon.

The African Union, a federation of 55 nations on the continent, has expressed their displeasure for the coup in Gabon but has yet to comment on any further actions to be taken.

If the coup succeeds, it would mark the latest in nine successful military coups that have occurred in Africa during the past three years.



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

Transfer-dinand & the Expedition to X

Transferring sucks. The whole process is worse than originally applying for college because there is much less guidance, and it is all in your hands to know if you are making the right decision or not.

I came to Xavier last fall at the start of my sophomore year, having gone through the transfer process over the summer. I never imagined myself transferring until I realized that at the end of my first year I was absolutely miserable at my previous university and needed to be somewhere else.

I don't mean to say that transferring sucks because I regret being at Xavier. That is completely wrong. I have grown to greatly love this school and the people it has brought into my life. What I hated about transferring was the process.

When I began the transfer process, I toured Xavier about a month after my sister's graduation ceremony in the spring of 2022. It is strange to say that a graduation ceremony is what sparked me wanting to come here, but it is the truth.

After I had toured here, I knew this was where I wanted to be. It was the only school I visited when I was going through the transfer process, which says a great deal about the school. Once I got home from my tour, I filled out the application.

I was accepted into the school quickly, but the next part of the process moved very slowly. While my admission counselor was great at communicating with me and answering my absurd number of questions, there was still so much waiting during the process. It took more than a month and a half to know which of my class credits would transfer over.

Once I knew which credits transferred to Xavier, there were so many other credits that didn't transfer over. I still don't understand to this day why those credits didn't count for anything.

Surprisingly, registering for housing and classes was fairly easy, even though I expected those to be difficult. But once the beginning of the school year rolled around, a whole new level of the trans-

fer process began: making friends.

When you come into Xavier as a first-year, you experience Manresa — where you have the chance to meet so many people and make lifelong friends. As a transfer, I had a five-hour orientation session the day before classes started where they threw information about college at me that I already knew, making it a rather pointless orientation. Compared to the almost half-a-week freshman are given to become adapted to campus, I had all of a day and a half, which included move-in and the transfer orientation.

While the transfer orientation was a good chance to get to know other transfers, I only talked to one other person who went through that five-hour orientation. Having no real chance to meet people before classes started was just about the worst part of this whole process.

As someone who is quieter and more reserved, for the first few weeks of the school year, I was regretting transferring. I had left behind friendships I had made at my previous uni-

versity and thought I would never gain more friendships like the ones I had. I quickly realized that I would have to open up in order to make up for the first-year experiences I had missed out on here.

As things got better socially, I then had to figure out things academically because I felt so out of my league in the classroom.

During my first year of college, I didn't develop any good study habits which quickly put me behind as a new student at a new school. I contacted my success coach, and they were not a great help with my situation.

I think so many faculty and staff members do not have much experience with transfer students, and I believe it is something that should be greatly improved upon so that all students have the best experience possible, both socially and academically.

There is so much work that needs to be done to make the transfer process smoother for students who wish to switch universities at any point in their college time.

While Xavier has made ad-

vances since the time I transferred, including hiring a transfer-specific recruitment counselor, transfers need more support beyond just the admission process.

I am proud to be a Muskeeteer, despite all the difficulties of getting to this day. Transferring is my story, and no matter how stressful it may have been, it paid off in the end because I am so much happier than I was during my first year at a different university. If I had to go back in time and do it again, I would just go back to when I applied to college and apply to Xavier rather than being a stubborn little sister who didn't want to go to the same school as her sister.



Addison Burke is a staff writer for *News-wire*. She is an English major from Akron, Ohio.

It's a Chore to Eat S'mores That Bore

Let me guide you through an experience quickly. Imagine, whether you're outdoorsy or not, that you're on a hike.

A brisk, autumn wind blows around you. The changing colors of the leaves are bright against the blue, cloudy sky. It's been a great day, a beautiful day with friends as you hike an easy trail to the peak of a gorgeous valley. The day starts to turn to night, and you all light a fire as the stars enter the sky.

You're having a great time, laughing, talking, eating hot dogs cooked fresh over the campfire until someone brings out that cursed bag of marshmallows. An ugly ending to a perfect night.

I'd like to think that I'm a man of many tastes, but I'd also like to think the people who enjoy s'mores are delusional.

Now before all the campers

in the room try to throw their hiking packs and Yeti coolers at me, I need to let you all in on a bias of mine. I'm not a chocolate person. I never have been and I never will be. It's just personal taste.

"How can you judge a s'more if you've never eaten one with chocolate on it?" First, you aren't funny. I've heard that one a lot. Second, it's the only way I've ever eaten them.

The three biggest criticisms against the s'more that are glaringly obvious to anyone that can see past the allure of that "great, outdoorsy treat!" are the messiness, dryness and downright blandness of the s'more. And don't you worry, I'll go into detail on each point — I know you were worried I wouldn't.

Even the messiest sandwich I've eaten has never once given me as much trouble

as a routine s'more. S'mores have zero structural integrity. Chocolate drips on your hands, crumbs fall all over the place and white goo threatens to bind your fingers together. Even if you were to eat a s'more like a pro — like myself — without chocolate, you end up with crumbs all over your body and your hands stuck together.

Speaking from experience, I despise going inside to wash my hands if I'm eating a s'more in someone's backyard. God forbid I'm ever on an actual camping trip — I can only pray such a thing would never happen — and I eat a s'more. Because of the gross feeling of stickiness between my fingers, I'd have to wipe my fingers on the grass, get some water from a water bottle and rinse myself off.

Ugh, so disgusting — save it for someone else.

That all goes without emphasizing how dry a s'more is. Even with chocolate, there's no chance that a s'more is refreshing. It's like chewing a really sugary concoction of bark, bubblegum and sand — which I can say because as a baby I ate multiple handfuls of sand. I always feel like I need a full glass of water after I eat a s'more, and I can confidently say that if you don't think you do too, you're either a demon or made of water.

There's no way any sane person has enough moisture for one s'more at any point, let alone multiple. Adding on to the whole "s'mores are like sand" idea, from what I remember, they sure don't just have the texture of sand — they taste like it too. I don't think, in my 19 years of life, I have once finished an entire s'more. Bite one: illusion of sweetness. Bite two: you real-

ize the texture, and bite three — if you manage to get there and don't quit after bite two — it's just more of the same terrible thing.

So in conclusion, if you like chocolate, marshmallows and graham crackers roasted and stacked vertically, then you're a nerd. Oh, and if you try to defend them you're a bigger nerd! Got you!



Patrick Kayes is a staff writer for *News-wire*. He is a marketing major from Avon, Ohio.

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Gilligan's Island of Good Governing

Aug. 26 marked 10 years since the death of former Ohio Governor John Joyce "Jack" Gilligan. To mark the anniversary, I think it would be appropriate to briefly delve into a crucial moment in his career to remind ourselves of what genuine and selfless public service can look like.

Recently, I came across the title of his biography, *John J. Gilligan: The Politics of Principle* by Mark Bernstein. I discovered a man who was raised in my hometown of Cincinnati and went on to become the 62nd Governor of Ohio, only to have his governorship undone by what I believe to be a truly selfless act of political courage.

The selfless act in question was establishing the state income tax of Ohio. Elected governor in 1970, Gilligan campaigned on a bold vision calling for the creation of the new income tax in contrast to

a sales or property tax that he believed had a disproportionately negative impact on low-income and elderly Ohioans.

On March 1, 1971, Gilligan went before both Republican-controlled bodies of the Ohio Legislature to lay out his detailed vision for the state income tax. He called for increased funding for schools, citing the fact that 13 Ohio school districts had been forced to shut down within the

Next, he addressed the issue of the environment, asserting that Ohio needed to stand up in defense of its nat-

ural beauty. Indeed, Ohio's environmental plight was dire. It had been only nine months earlier that the Cuyahoga River had caught fire. "If we do want these things, and I believe we do, then we must face the fact that we must pay for them," he said.

To finance the improvements Ohio desperately required, Gilligan stood unwaveringly by his commitment to introduce an income tax in the state.

Amid chaotic negotiations between Gilligan and the Republican-majority legislature, he wasn't making many friends. Even the Democratic State Senate Minority Leader Anthony Calabrese told reporters that Gilligan, his fellow Democrat, was a "son of a b*tch." Regardless, he pressed onward.

Left with few methods of persuading the legislators to act, he implemented the wildly unpopular austerity program in which hundreds of state employees were fired, funding to some state services was halted or reduced and

many large state parks closed. The backlash was swift and severe. Angry citizens of Clermont County went as far as to burn the governor in effigy at Stonelick State Park.

"The plain and simple fact is that we have not been able to find a majority of votes on either side of the aisle who are willing to stand up — who have the courage to stand up — and say this is what Ohio needs," Gilligan said.

No matter how grim the outlook at any one point, Gilligan never gave up the fight for what he believed in, and Ohioans are better off today because of it. Not only did the income tax finally pass after months of delay, but it significantly alleviated the funding crisis facing Ohio's schools, mental institutions and the environment, helping and saving the lives of many. Ohio continues to benefit from the income tax to this day, including the \$10.8 billion it brought in for state services in the fiscal year 2021.

"Gilligan's defeat is a more tragic loss for the state than

for himself. Gilligan had the courage to challenge the state to meet its responsibilities. He did things for the people that most politicians only talk about," the Lorain Journal said about his 1974 gubernatorial loss.

It is because of his undaunted courage in the face of such fierce political backlash that our 62nd Governor of Ohio John Joyce Gilligan will forever serve as a venerable inspiration and reminder to me that public service can still be among the noblest of callings.



Nick Watts is a guest writer for *NewsWire*. He is Philosophy, Politics and the Public and history double major from Cincinnati.

I think it would be appropriate to briefly delve into a crucial moment in his career to remind ourselves of what genuine and selfless public service can look like.

pre-vious three years. He also voiced sup-

Ken You Say "Keeping the Status Quo"?

I am a feminist. And, I love the color pink. In fact, I love pink and glitter and dresses so much this has become integral to my personality. There are four Barbie Dreamhouses in my basement at home and well over 50 Barbie dolls. I have seen every Barbie movie ever made.

Naturally, I put on my pink mini-skirt, my six-inch platform heels and my best glitter eyeliner to see the new *Barbie* movie. As the movie opened, it was everything I had hoped for. The casting was perfect. The costuming was excellent. The coordinated Dua Lipa dance number brought these dolls to life on the gilded screen in front of me.

I recognized several dolls and playsets I still have, and I watched fondly as my old toys were fantastically brought to life.

Just 10 minutes after that, this Barbie started to panic. I didn't want Barbie to have an existential crisis. I didn't want Barbie to have thoughts of death.

When I was five, Barbies were bought for happy occasions. I got the ones in pretty Easter dresses for my birthday, and I bought the fun ones that came with Play-Doh with all the money I made from the tooth fairy.

They were something me and my grandmother bonded over — how she taught me to take care of objects that are meaningful to me. These dolls are part of how I developed a niche for doing hair and makeup and taking pride in my fashion sense.

I related to Margot Rob-

bie's Barbie in all the ways I didn't want to. I get nauseous too. I panic too. But I never wanted it to be something Barbie was capable of.

I found myself wishing I related more to Ken. Ken got to have fun. Ken only had to worry about the beach, the sun, his horse obsession and his hair. He is Kenough; he didn't have to feel insufficient or think about his role in life. All he had to think about was Barbie.

Ken got to have all the fun and Barbie had to save the day and figure out how real life worked.

I liked the movie. But I didn't love it. I think the people who walked out of that movie disappointed wanted a form of an escape from all the existential thoughts of

death. I wanted to walk in that movie holding hands with my sister, ready to sing songs like the ones we memorized when we were just little. We did not get the reprieve from the real world we so desperately anticipated. We got a slap in the face and a reality check about our own insecurities, and we were told Barbie was responsible for half of them.

Barbie was not responsible for my insecurities. She mended them. She gave me the confidence to not think it's silly for wanting four different careers all at once. She gave me the confidence to wear a pink frilly dress to the grocery store. Most importantly, she gave me some of the best memories I have with my little sisters.

The *Barbie* movie is entertaining to watch. But it is not sublime. I wanted a nostalgic, fun movie that would

make me laugh and make me feel the way Barbie movies did when I was little.

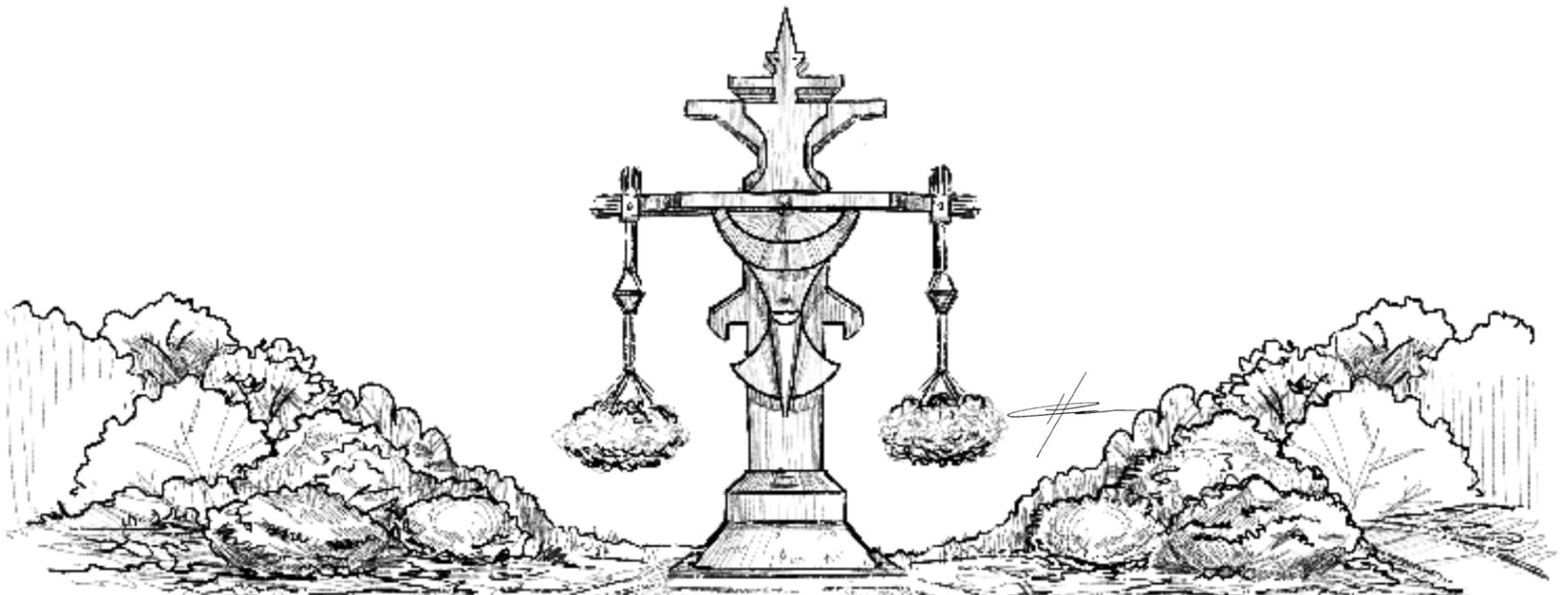
This movie proved to me that Mattel should stick to making kids happy and not actively trying to make them cry.

And, maybe, that I need to schedule my first gynecologist appointment.



Kayla Ross is the Back Page editor for *NewsWire*. She is a health services administration major from Wadsworth, Ohio.

We got a slap in the face and a reality check about our own insecurities, and we were told Barbie was responsible for half of them.



Xavier Volleyball Conquers Clifton

BY BRIANA DUNN
Staff Writer

Xavier volleyball, through two nonconference tournaments, has wiped the floor with rivals such as the University of Cincinnati Bearcats, Alabama State Hornets, and Indiana State Sycamores at the Tribute to #10 Tournament hosted by the University of Cincinnati. However, after a tough weekend in Boulder, Colorado, Xavier finds itself with an even win-loss ratio.

The Musketeers opened their season at Fifth Third Arena on Aug. 25, defeating the Indiana State Sycamores in a four-set match (25-19, 25-16, 23-25, 25-17). Red-shirt sophomore outside hitter Emma Grace led the team with 17 kills, averaging 4.5 kills per set and recording 22 receptions, 12 digs and one block assist. The Musketeers totaled 67 kills, three block solos, four block assists and 65 assists in the matchup.

Xavier volleyball earned back-to-back victories against rival University of Cincinnati on Aug. 26, defeating the Bearcats in four sets (28-26, 16-25, 25-23, 25-23). Red-shirt sophomore Anna Taylor, playing outside hitter, and sophomore outside hitter Caroline Speelman tallied 13

and nine kills, respectively, adding to the Musketeers' 62-kill total for the match-up. Junior setter Logan Flaugh and redshirt junior outside hitter Sarah Stevens were the only Musketeers to post a block solo and the only Musketeers to record blocks against the Bearcats. Head Coach Christy Pffeffenberger's challenge calls and successful challenges turned the tables for the women in navy as she went five for six, giving the squad a push to victory.

The Musketeers wrapped up the Cincinnati Tournament by sweeping the Alabama State Hornets in straight sets (25-17, 25-14, 25-20). Flaugh nearly tied her career records with 25 assists and 10 digs to pick up her first double-double of the season and posting a match-high of two block solos. Senior libero Stevie Wolf and freshman defensive specialist Elouise Czajkowski each saw double receptions, tallying 15 and 13, respectively.

The Musketeers departed for Boulder for the University of Colorado tournament, spanning Sept. 1-3, with a record of 3-0.

Facing the University of Colorado Buffaloes on Sept. 1, the Musketeers fell in three sets (16-25, 20-25, 10-25)



Photo courtesy of goxavier.com

Xavier achieved its third triumph out of the last four meetings over the team down the road in six seasons in its second match of the Tribute to #10 Tournament hosted by Cincinnati.

moving their overall record to 3-1. Despite the loss, graduate student Carrigan O'Reilly, posted 16 assists and 10 digs, team-high in both categories, earning her third double-double of the season. Wolf and junior defensive specialist Lucia Corsaro followed O'Reilly with five digs each as Grace recorded a team-high of seven kills.

The Musketeers faced off against first-time opponent Northern Colorado University Bears on Sept. 2, but fell again in three sets (22-25,

15-25, 18-25). Senior middle blocker Delaney Hogan hit .500, recording a team-high of nine kills and adding two block assists to the team's eight against the Bears. Speelman, Grace and graduate outside hitter Brooklyn Cink followed Hogan's kills with five, four and four kills, respectively. Grace and Wolf were the only two Musketeers to record a service ace in the match.

The Musketeers ended the tournament with their match-up against the Charlotte For-

ty Niners. Xavier lost in three close sets (20-25, 17-25, 22-25) versus the Forty Niners. O'Reilly and Grace led the squad in kills, totaling seven each, and were closely followed by Taylor and Hogan with six and five kills, respectively. The team totaled 28 assists, 32 kills, 15 blocks and 38 digs within the match.

Xavier volleyball's next match is home on Friday, Sept. 8 at 6:30 p.m. against the University of Buffalo Bulls in the Xavier Tournament at the Cintas Center.

Things Get Messi as Inter Miami Boots FCC

Argentine superstar leads Inter Miami CF to victory in penalties in front of record crowd

BY JUSTIN MALONE
World News Editor

Despite a heartbreaking loss on penalty shootouts to Inter Miami CF that ended their fairy-tale run in the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup, FC Cincinnati's valiant effort against the Lionel Messi-led team that culminated in one of the most highly thrilling soccer matches in the Queen City's history. Following a dramatic 3-3 draw with Miami after extra time, the Orange and Blue fell in the cup's semifinal game 5-4 on penalties.

Midfielder and team captain Luis Acosta, who currently leads the Orange and Blue with 13 goals in the Major League Soccer (MLS) regular season, kicked off the scoring for FC Cincinnati by picking up a failed clearance effort from Miami defender Sergii Kryvtsov and snapping a left-footed shot that poked off the left post and dribbled into the goal in the 18th minute.

Cincinnati doubled its advantage eight minutes into the second half through an emphatic goal by midfielder and U.S. international forward Brandon Vasquez. After a booted ball passed the Inter Miami midfield, defender Santiago Arias broke down the right wing and found Vasquez



Photo courtesy of wikimedia.commons.org

TQL Stadium welcomed a capacity crowd of 26,000 on Aug. 23. The venue, opened in 2021, has hosted CONCACAF Gold Cup quarterfinals and U.S. Women's National Team friendly matches this summer.

ties, where Cincinnati lost by one shot.

Even though the hosting side lost, the game meant so much more to both the players and fans of Cincinnati. The arrival of international superstar Messi to Inter Miami's squad, elevated the team from one of the bottom-feeders of the MLS to one of the most reinvigorated. Since the arrival of their new #10, Miami was undefeated going into

play with an MLS team will seem to shape the sport's direction in North America for the immediate future.

Members of FC Cincinnati were prepared to meet the moment in a balanced, but excited way.

"Once I'm in the game, I'm zoned-in and focused on what I have to do," defender Matt Miazga said. "I can't dwell and think about who's on the pitch."

FC Cincinnati midfielder and Argentina native Alvaro Barreal noted. "I grew up watching him ... so I know how (great) he can be."

"To play against him, it's gonna be very hard," Acosta stated. "You just have to be prepared for the big moments. You have to prepare as a team, not just to play as one."

The moment was also exhilarating for fans of the game throughout Cincinnati and the country, including Aiden Halverson, a Guest Experience Ambassador at TQL Stadium and junior exercise science major at Xavier. He remarked, "It was pandemonium... there was a blaze of cheers everytime Messi got the ball," he remarked.

FC Cincinnati looks to continue their hot streak in MLS regular season play against Philadelphia Union on Sept. 16.

their game with the Orange and Blue, and won the U.S. Open Cup just days later.

The seven-time Ballon d'Or winner comes to MLS and U.S. competition having lifted Argentina to its first FIFA World Cup title since 1986, playing a vital role in his country's victory over France in Qatar last year. Despite being 36, his presence in the game of soccer is universally known, and his move to

New Mural Becomes Cincy Pride's Joy

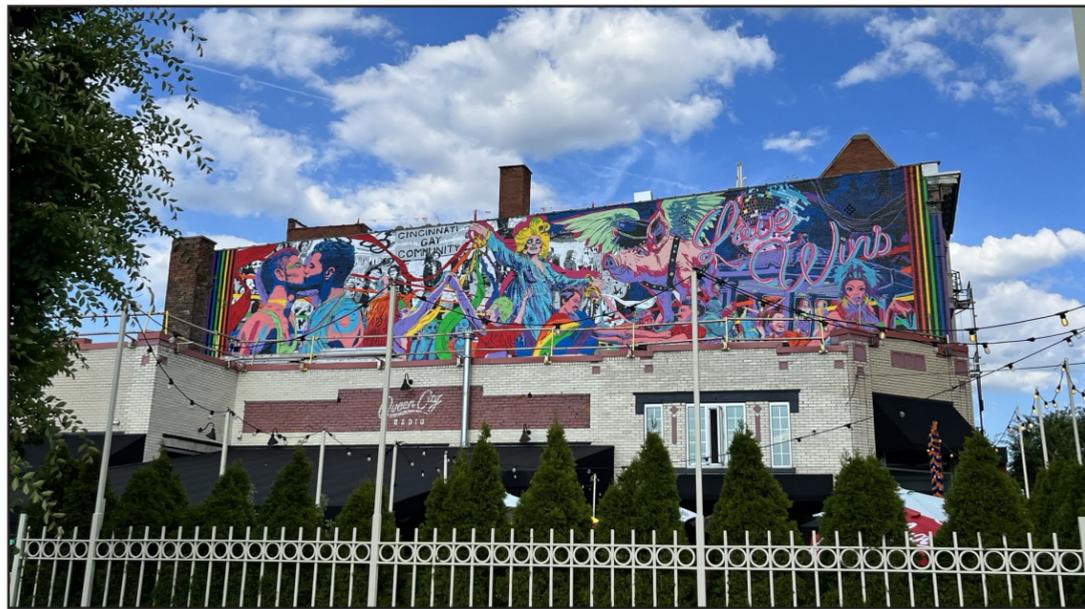
BY BEN DICKISON
Sports Editor

Over the summer, Cincinnati's Over-the-Rhine gained a new mural paying homage to the LGBTQ+ community of the 513.

The mural was organized by Cincinnati Pride, the art-based nonprofit ArtWorks, Procter & Gamble and the City of Cincinnati's Career Pathways Initiative. The design was created by Matthew Dayler, a Greater Cincinnati queer artist who works on behalf of Chroma Projects and holds the role of assistant art professor at the Art Academy of Cincinnati.

The dedication of the mural, titled "Love Wins," was marked by a ceremony at Queen City Radio, a bar located just a door down from the mural, on West 12th street.

In addition to its location just adjacent to FC Cincinnati's TQL Stadium, the mural is visible from an elevated surface, looking out over Queen City Radio. Senior Associate Director of Student Involvement Dustin Lewis, now in his thirteenth year at Xavier, is currently the Director of Programming at Cincinnati Pride. He was one of the



Newswire photo courtesy of Daniel Irvine

members who spent a day painting the mural.

Lewis explained the choice for location.

"Some other companies we approached were concerned that an LGBTQ+ focused mural could attract defacing. We at Pride were seeking somewhere that had an elevated space for that reason exactly," Lewis said.

There have been multiple instances of defacing various murals in the surrounding area of "Love Wins" within the last half-century.

Lewis praised ArtWorks

for their ability to pinpoint a location that serves as a beacon of welcome for members of the LGBTQ+ community living in and visiting the city.

"ArtWorks does a great job of tracking down raw spaces, who owns deeds (on the property)... and then presenting them with their perspectives," he said.

While multiple instances of vandalism on ArtWorks projects have occurred since 2019 and some businesses have been resistant to housing murals celebrating marginalized communities, organiza-

tions such as Kroger, Procter & Gamble, Great American and Fifth-Third Bank are "motivated to contribute back to the community," said Lewis.

Through private donations and grants, these organizations have contributed to the rectification of other murals celebrating Cincinnati's diversity, such as with murals honoring the Black Lives Matter movement.

The project was conducted by ArtWorks' teaching artists Daniel Baker and Orion Inéz. Baker and Inéz worked with 12 ArtWorks apprentices,

Cincinnati Pride members and 20 ArtWorks-trained Procter & Gamble employees to paint the mural. Lewis encourages Xavier students to seize similar opportunities.

"Whether you are an art major or not, these opportunities are open to everyone," Lewis said. "I strongly encourage Xavier to help expand Cincinnati's art spaces."

There is a student ArtWorks mural already standing on campus, located directly next to Hailstones Hall, depicting a multicolored tree. Lewis hinted that there is interest from the Art Department and Student Government Association in adding another mural to campus, and potential locations are being explored.

Senior nursing major and member of Cincinnati's LGBTQ+ community Garrett Cooper lauded the mural and what it meant to him. "With a rich history and a growing LGBTQ+ community, seeing a large statement serving as a visual representation of the budding community in Cincinnati is important not only to me, but important to the recognition of our community and our place in this city," Cooper said.

New Hozier Album Raises Hell for Fresh Sounds

BY KAYLA ROSS
Back Page Editor

I wouldn't know where to start. I've had no love like I do for this album. *Unreal Unearth* is Irish musician Hozier's third album, which debuted at No.1 on U.K. charts after his four-year break from making new music.

Both of the singer's previous albums, *Hozier* and *Wasteland, Baby!*, explore themes of Roman Catholic religious trauma. In *Unreal Unearth*, Hozier makes his statement via a whole new wave of music rooted in the haunting effects of hell. Hozier told Rolling Stone that the inspiration for this album was the nine circles of hell illustrated in Dante's *Inferno*.

In different songs, Hozier tells a story about different circles of hell. The lead single from this album, "Eat Your Young," immediately started trending in March on TikTok with its sensual lyrics and desperate tune. This song explores the third circle of hell – gluttony – with lyrics about taking advantage of youth and passion. Hozier sings in the opening lines to this hit, "I'm starving, darling / Let me put my lips to something / Let me wrap my teeth around the world."

The sound of this album is distinctively Hozier, but he

sounds more authentic, passionate and comfortable than he has since his first hit, "Take Me to Church." Hozier's connections to his Irish roots shine through in the intonation of his voice, particularly in "De Selby (Part 1)," in which Hozier sings in Irish in the last verse. In a "Behind The Song" video posted to his YouTube channel, he explains that the main theme of the verses means, "Although you're bright and light, you arrive to me like nightfall, you come like nightfall."

Many other fans and I were arguably most excited about Hozier's much-anticipated collaboration with fellow folk musician Brandi Carlile. Carlile and Hozier have performed Hozier's "Work Song" together several times, but their song "Damage Gets Done" from *Unreal Unearth* is a perfect blend of their two musical styles and cutting lyrics. This is a painful song about two people growing up and out of love and realizing the love they have for each other is not enough for them to be fulfilled with their lives: "One time we would want for nothin' / We knew what our love was worth / Now we're always missin' somethin' / I miss when we did not need much."

This album is a Hozier renaissance. He has moved past

his wistful lullabies and is finding a soulful, rock sound that we have only had tastes of in songs like "Jackie and Wilson" and "Nina Cried Power."

However, Hozier does give us one tortured love song reminiscent of his earliest work. "Unknown / Nth" is the best song on this album. He sings, "You know the distance never made a difference to me / I swam a lake of fire / I'd have walked across the floor of any sea / Ignored the vastness between all that can be seen / And all that we believe / So I thought you were like an angel to me." This song has lyrics that make calls to another song on this album, "All Things End," and in doing that, I think he is saying that his lover is his end. He would walk through hell to be with his lover, but he also realizes that his lover is his personal hell.

Unreal Unearth is avant-garde for Hozier. He is proving that his storytelling and imagery are unmatched in the songwriting of current music. I give this album a 9/10. The sound is enthralling because of the variation in each and every song, and there are philosophical lessons to be learned after just one listen.



BY KYRA HUDSON
Staff Writer

- Doja Cat removed the artwork from her upcoming album because of similarities to German metal band Chaver's album art (Aug. 29).
- Burning Man festivalgoers were stranded due to heavy storms flooding the Black Rock desert (Sept. 2).
- Smash Mouth singer Steve Harwell passed away at 56 (Sept. 4).

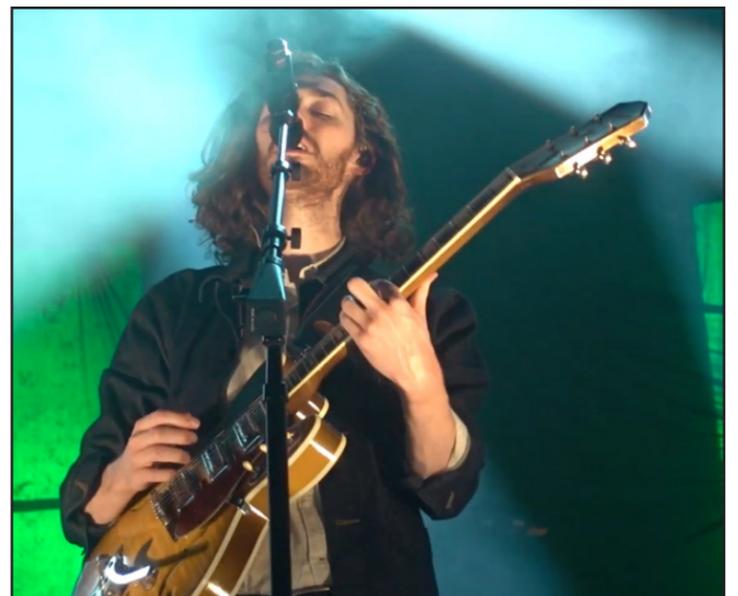


Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org



Aries: You're the Changes in Latitudes Margarita. You taste different with every sip.



Taurus: You are the Feeling Peachy Margarita. You're a cutie who likes pink.



Gemini: You are the Uptown Top-Shelf Margarita. Don't let anyone treat you like a downtown bottoms-half margarita.



Cancer: You are the Blueberry Pomegranate Margarita. You're basic, but well-loved by everyone.



Leo: You are the Devil I Know margarita. Don't fight it, you know why.



Virgo: You are the Smokin' Rita. You had a massive glow-up this summer, and you need to make it everyone else's problem.



Libra: You are the Watermelon Margarita. You are light, easy-breezy and pink. Everyone loves you because you're very easy to get along with.



Scorpio: You are the Last Mango in Paris Margarita. You need to get out more, make some memories and leave your bed.



Sagittarius: You are the Who's to Blame Margarita. Stop blaming other people for simple mistakes. Listen to Jimmy. "It's nobody's fault."



Capricorn: You are the Perfect Margarita. Never change for anyone, you're perfect just the way you are.



Aquarius: You are the Where's the Party Margarita. You know how to get down and have a good time.



Pisces: You are the Long Weekend Margarita. I hope you had a great Labor Day and you survive this four-day week.

Jimmy In Paradise

BY KYRA HUDSON, STAFF WRITER

On Sept. 1, Jimmy Buffet, the sweet prince of "Margaritaville", passed away at 76 surrounded by friends, family and his dogs. Buffet was not only the pioneer of making music for people who unironically wear Hawaiian shirts when going out to a bar, but also a businessman of preposterous measures. As I write this article in loving memory of Buffett and peruse his Wikipedia page for information about his incredible life, I'm realizing that there is more to his brand than just songs about margaritas and cheeseburgers. So, in honor of the man, the myth and the legend, I present to you my favorite of Jimmy Buffett's business ventures outside of his astounding music career:

- Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville restaurants: With a whopping 22 locations across the U.S. and Canada, the restaurant chain started by Buffett himself can only be described as the physical embodiment of Buffett soul. These immersive restaurants are refurbished with island-themed decorations such as palm trees, tropical wallpapers and Buffett's discography playing on repeat on the speakers. What's more is that the menu features cheeky references to his notable career, such as "volcano nachos." Alongside the menu is an extensive drink and margarita list to fulfill any of your 5 o'clock needs.
- Latitude Margaritaville retirement communities: Not to be confused with his Margaritaville resorts, of which there are 26 locations across the U.S., Buffett partnered with real estate company Minto Group, to renovate a retirement village in Daytona, Fla., and two other locations in Watersound, Fla. and Hilton Head, S.C., for retirees to live out their final years in the pure feeling of delight that Jimmy sings about in his 1978 classic, "Cheeseburger in Paradise."
- Jimmy Buffett cannabis: And now for my favorite business project that Buffett has ever completed... In 2018, Buffett partnered with Wrigley Company to license the "Coral Reefer" brand of marijuana and a vape pen called TideRider, which was shaped to look like a surfboard. Buffett stated in a press release for the product: "Life is supposed to be about having fun and staying healthy enough to enjoy it. I think Coral Reefer will help a lot of folks do that."

Though the world may know him as the king of "island escapism" music, and for his easy-going demeanor and for countless establishments dedicated to his likeness, Buffett was also a strong campaigner for environmental conservation and a generous donor to disaster relief. He was a husband, father and a friend to many. To Mr. Buffett, I hope you found your lost shaker of salt and are enjoying a margarita and cheeseburger in paradise. Sail on, sailor.



COMIC BY BRIANA DUNN



COMIC BY KAYLA ROSS

