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NewsWire Hosts Student Journalists

Student newspapers from throughout the region meet to discuss college journalism

BY JACKSON HARE
Campus News Editor

Xavier NewsWire welcomed eight universities surrounding the Cincinnati area to Arupe Overlook last Saturday to this year's intercollegiate journalism conference.

Xavier hosted this conference for the first time in Fall 2019 with the intention to make it a regular occurrence every other year. While COVID-19 disrupted plans for a 2020 conference, nine advisors of student newspapers from the respective universities revisited plans for a 2023 intercollegiate journalism conference, meeting this past summer to host it once again.

Approximately 52 student journalists from their respective universities, including Miami University, Wright State University, Cedarville University, Northern Kentucky University, Capital University and University of Cincinnati, joined NewsWire's staff to engage in discussion regarding journalism and the new digital age.

A few leaders from each newspaper shared highlights of successes and major issues from their coverage in the past year in the opening panel.

After, several breakout sessions also fostered dialogue led by 14 guests from the Cincinnati Enquirer, Dayton Daily News, the Cincinnati Business Courier, the Cincinnati Magazine, the Butler County Journal News and Cincinnati City Beat. Students participated in these various breakout sessions, as they chose from an assortment of journalistic topics, including advanced storytell-

ing, the use of social media, incorporating artificial intelligence into the newsroom, developing a nose for news and the use of visuals and interactive media.

Waking up at 5:30 a.m. to make it on time to the conference, Capital University's The Chimes Editor-in-Chief Adrian Suppes felt the conference was a great opportunity to meet other passionate writers.

"It's really important to be able to meet all these people — to be in these environments," Suppes said.

"You never know who you're going to be working with in 10 years. That could be somebody that was in this room," he continued.

Students were provided with free lunch courtesy of the Society of Professional Journalists, including a variety of different sandwiches from Jason's Deli, while they heard from keynote speakers from WCPO-TV.

WCPO-TV's Kristen Swilley commented on the coming together of enthusiastic student journalists, saying it was a promising display.

"This is a difficult industry and public opinion on this is all over the place at the time, so it takes bravery. I'm glad we have a lot of brave people who are willing to do the tough and important work that people deserve to hear," Swilley said.

The event concluded with an open discussion about the common problems the student newspapers often face. This included how to retain writers, how to engage with administration on sensitive issues, how to deal with backlash from controversial articles and how to create a



NewsWire photo courtesy of John Stowell

Dozens of students from eight universities from Columbus to Northern Kentucky gathered in the Gallagher Student Center on Saturday to discuss topics pertaining to student journalism and careers in the press.

diverse newsroom. Students then exchanged strategies by which they attempted to resolve said issues.

The University of Cincinnati's The News Record Editor-in-Chief Allison Kiehl expressed that the conference served as an opportunity to collaborate with one another to improve.

"It's a great opportunity to meet our peers and continue developing our craft," Kiehl said.

"At the end of the day, we're all working to develop professionally and to also make sure that our audience and our readers have the in-

formation they need and deserve," she continued.

Among the several strategies shared in regards to helping retain writers and maintaining a strong newsroom culture, NewsWire staff discussed the role of extracurricular activities outside of the newsroom, inviting attendees to a social gathering later that night.

A few students from Northern Kentucky University's The Northerner joined NewsWire staff following the event to continue the conversations and connections made during the conference.

The Northerner's Arts &

Life Editor Killian Baarlaer attended the social gathering and reflected that it was an enriching experience.

"I've always just seen (Xavier) as a place that I drive to from time to time — driving into Xavier to get to somewhere else," Baarlaer said.

"When I got invited to come to this event, I was very excited. I got to socialize on a level that I do with my peers, so I'm very lucky that Xavier has people that are very inviting, will let me enter their personal spaces and will let me just enjoy myself," he concluded.

In this issue...

Campus, Page 2

This year's sold-out HOLA gala raises over \$3,000 for scholarships and charities.



Opinions, Page 4

Guest writer Luca Filigenzi demands for greater appreciation of the swivel chair.



Sports, Page 6

The Cincinnati Reds end their season just short of reaching the postseason.



A&E, Page 8

Lorde's seminal first album, *Pure Heroine*, celebrates a decade of music influence.



XU Dems Organizes Day of Action

Xavier students rally on the yard to talk about DEI legislation and gun violence

By PAT GAINOR
Staff Writer

Xavier College Democrats partnered with the newly-formed Students Demand Action (SDA) club in a day of action last Monday, joining several other Ohio universities orchestrated by the Ohio Student Activist Alliance (OSAA).

Students attending the rally gathered on Husman stage at 11 a.m. and heard from student speakers that offered personal stories about issues that matter to them, spanning from the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion on campus to gun violence and the importance of voting.

The OSAA is a newly-formed cohort of students across Ohio whose mission is to “empower and mobilize young voters through education and organization,” according to their website.

The organization arranged for students at several universities to engage in a day of action, including The Ohio State University, Ohio University, the University of Cincinnati, Kent State University, Miami University and the University of Akron to engage in a day



Newswire photo courtesy of Pat Gainor

During the event, voter registration forms were available for students to begin the process of registering to vote in Ohio as they listened to students speak about issues relevant to them.

of action.

Xavier joined the statewide effort, with Xavier College Democrats organizing the rally on campus.

“Our goal today was really to support voter registration on campus and try to get the voices of student leaders to recognize what is most important to them,” President of Xavier College Democrats Tate Clemons said. “A lot of the recent laws around trans youth and gun violence, which is such a prevalent issue with our generation and especially with college campuses, pres-

ent worry and concern.”

Many of the testimonies given were about the experience of being so close to school shootings and how that led them to pursue gun control advocacy.

“I grew up near Columbine High School,” junior PPP major Victoria Strawbridge said in a speech addressing the crowd. “They shut down the school every single year because they had copycat shooters that would come back and try to inflict the same shooting over and over again... We’ve been defined as the

school shooting generation, but they don’t dare call us what we really are: the generation of survivors,” she said.

Having been newly formed, SDA announced plans to prepare a divestment campaign for Xavier.

“The main goal of a divestment campaign is to get Xavier to pledge to not donate to any corporations that support gun violence or the sale of illegal guns which could be very harmful to children in America,” President of SDA Bridget Dean said.

Another issue discussed

was Ohio Senate Bill 83, which would ban all diversity, equity and inclusion training from all publicly-funded universities and what this means for marginalized students on Xavier’s campus.

Subsequently, this has led Clemons and others to emphasize the importance of voting on all levels of government.

“Of course, we should always vote during presidential elections and primaries... but there are so many smaller offices and local offices that matter — almost even more so because the impacts that we make on a small level really kind of have that butterfly ripple effect,” Clemons said.

According to Clemons, voter registration on campus has been an issue that clubs and local organizations alike have been working to address.

“The first thing you should be doing is registering,” Clemons said. “You can always reach out to your representatives... You can always volunteer to work the polls to help make sure that everything goes smoothly and quickly, and then just generally reaching out to any group on campus or elsewhere that you think represents an issue that you feel strongly about.”

Xavier Students Celebrate the Annual HOLA Gala

By WILL COFFMAN
Newswire Intern

Last Saturday night, students filled The Sanctuary, a 19th-century brick church distinguished with stained glass windows and hardwood floors that would serve as the dance floor of the Hispanic Organization and LatinX Awareness’ (HOLA) annual gala.

HOLA organizes the gala each year to fundraise for the HOLA scholarship and charities serving Hispanic and

Latino children. This year, they raised money for the Su Casa Hispanic Center Services, which serves the Hispanic/Latinx community in the Greater Cincinnati area, providing social case management, family reunification, education and health promotion services. With tickets selling out, this year’s event raised over \$3,000, according to HOLA President Alessandra Clavel Hernandez.

“Our annual HOLA Gala was a great way for us to celebrate our Hispanic and LatinX community during Hispanic

Heritage Month,” Clavel Hernandez said.

Attendees, dressed in their formal attire, were greeted with a large room full of tables prepared for students to feast on traditional Latin American food. The tables were each decorated with flowers and were labeled as different Latin American countries with fun facts about each one.

The gala also serves to celebrate the different identities of Xavier students, showcasing the diversity of the student body and the impact every student has at Xavier. The gala’s theme was “Embracing Your Roots,” beginning the night with an introduction of Hispanic and Latinx students, who entered the large hall waving the flags of their country.

First-year sports management major Eduardo Rodriguez was one of the students waving the flags. He spoke very highly about the opening event.

“The pride of carrying my flag all over the place was really awesome. Being far away from home and being able to keep representing my culture at the highest level — it is the best thing so far,” Rodriguez said.

After dinner, motivational speaker Alejandro Clavel was invited to the stage to give a speech to those in attendance. Centering his speech around education and the importance of working hard and taking



Newswire photo courtesy of Chloe Salvesson

advantage of every opportunity, he encouraged students to never stop learning and to use knowledge as a tool to better yourself.

The rest of the night was spent dancing, with the opening song being led by members of HOLA before the rest of the gala attendees joined in. HOLA announced the winner of their raffle, with prizes including a JBL bluetooth speaker and a HOLA hoodie.

The event was DJed by junior music and English double major Azziz Samureh, who played songs by popular Latinx artists with a few classic line dance songs. Across the stage, one could observe dances like the cha-cha and salsa, as well as conga lines, lots of

jumping and head bobbing.

Senior business administration major Gaby Gutierrez felt it was a successful night.

“I thought the HOLA gala went great because so many people came together to celebrate so many different cultures,” Gutierrez said.

That celebration was exciting even for those who didn’t attend the gala. First-year data science major Stephen Klayer, who did not attend this year, has committed himself to going next year after hearing how fun it was from friends.

“It sounded like a great experience, and everyone I talked to had fun, so I will definitely make an attempt at going next year,” Klayer said.

October 4, 2023 Student Government Association Meeting Recap

By JUSTICE DICKEY

- Director of the Center for Accessibility and Disability Resources Cassandra Jones expressed that the number of students utilizing the services is going up, recording the most students using the service last fall.
- SGA President Ashley Findley reported that the university is looking into student retention with interest in creating more of a campus culture.
- A student panel is being established to help provide a student voice to the board as Xavier begins working on the master plan.

Cincinnati-Kharkiv Partnership Renewed

The sister cities agreed to cooperate in humanitarian efforts and extend cultural programs

BY HANNAH KREMER
Newswire Intern

Representatives from Cincinnati and Kharkiv, Ukraine signed a memorandum in Kyiv two weeks ago that renewed the 34-year sister city partnership between the two cities.

City Council Member Mark Jeffreys and Sister City Partnership President Bob Herring, delivered a copy of the updated agreement that had been signed by Cincinnati Mayor Aftab Pureval to Kharkiv Mayor Igor Terekhov.

The agreement stated that Cincinnati would continue to send humanitarian relief to the city for the next five years and provide programs to visit and learn about Kharkiv and Ukrainian culture.

The visit came as Kharkiv continues to experience devastation from Russian bombardment and a mass exodus of residents after the Russian invasion.

The sister city partnership works with volunteer-driven nonprofit organizations to raise money for relief and rebuilding where the city has been destroyed. Since last year, the partnership has raised more than \$500,000 towards humanitarian relief efforts.

The sister city partnership was established in 1989



Photos courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

Representatives from the cities of Cincinnati and Kharkiv met in Kyiv to sign an updated memorandum for the sister city partnership. It detailed Cincinnati's goal to send humanitarian relief to Ukraine.

during the Cold War and has provided dozens of opportunities for people from the two cities to connect including hosting students from Kharkiv at Wyoming Schools, as well as hosting trips for teens in Pleasant Ridge to visit Ukraine.

The project has attracted the attention and participation of more than 3,000 citizens of Cincinnati. This includes all of those who have donated to the organization, dedicated their time to the program's mission or traveled between the two cities to share experiences

and learn about each other.

Most recently, two marathoners from Kharkiv visited Cincinnati to run in the Flying Pig Marathon in order to raise additional awareness about the war in Ukraine.

"For years, you have shown us that you're real friends; that you're with us in the times of happiness, in the times of hardships," the partnership's president in Ukraine, Iryna Bakumenko, said.

"There are incredible opportunities by being involved in a sister city partnership and

in a citizen to citizen diplomacy. It does make a difference," Herring said.

"Obviously, we are not the Secretary of State or the President of the United States or a part of the UN, but in the individual daily lives of the people involved, that is where we have made a difference," he added.

Herring's involvement in the partnership also stems back to his learning at Xavier. Before becoming involved in the partnership, Herring earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in history at

Xavier and became the principal of several Catholic institutions in Cincinnati. He was then recommended to help foster sister city partnerships.

Herring reached out to the Ukrainian delegation that was in Cincinnati in 1993 to speak to the children of Nativity Schools. This eventually sparked the 34-year partnership between Cincinnati and Kharkiv.

"I think that what makes the partnership unique is working with citizens who grew up under communism. These are people who grew up under an authoritarian closed regime who didn't have free or fair elections, didn't have a free market or a free press," Herring said.

"The world has gotten a little smaller because of it, and also more understanding," Herring continued.

As for Kharkiv, he believes that the citizens there feel as though they have friends in the West and that they are not alone.

Kharkiv encourages members of the Xavier community to be a voice for others.

"Do not be afraid to join. Don't be afraid to write a letter to a member of Congress who opposes humanitarian aid. Advocate for those who are being bullied, not only on campus but internationally... Be a voice for others," Kharkiv said.

Ohio Redistricting Maps Approved

BY JACK PLUTH
Staff Writer

Last week, the Ohio Redistricting Commission unanimously approved a series of new state legislative district maps which could potentially be in effect for eight years barring any successful political challenges.

The committee, made up of five Republicans and two Democrats, formally approved the new legislative map on Sept. 26. The new map likely gives the Republicans a 61 to 38 advantage over their Democratic counterparts in the Ohio House of Representatives. This advantage recalls a series of 11 toss-up seats in upcoming elections, eight of which are held by current Democrats and the latter three being occupied by Republicans.

A 23 to 10 advantage was predicted in the Ohio Senate with Republicans leading once again. Four seats in the Ohio Senate are at play, three of them currently Democratic, and only one being held by a Republican.

The Republican Auditor of State and commission co-chair Keith Faber said negotiations went on throughout the map-making process and even went into public talks on the day the maps were approved.

"This map is the result of an awful lot of hours of discussion, consideration, negotiation, mediation and more discussion," Faber said.

The two Democrats on the commission, Senate Minority Leader Nickie Antonio and House Minority Leader Allison Russo, noted that the map they approved was better than the one the commission started with. They had proposed working maps of their own at the first meeting of the commission, but those were rejected by the five Republican members of the panel.

"It was a compromise. Many things came to the middle. So considering that, I believe that we are in a better place, we have positioned Ohio to have more competitive elections this next cycle, that there will be more competitive districts because of what we did and that the people of Ohio will have a better opportunity for representation than they do today," Antonio said.

These shifts in the Ohio political sphere reflect a gradual turn away from the state's status as a "swing state," and more towards a future that is controlled by the Republicans.

Despite an unexpected showing at the 2022 midterm elections, the Republican party won a series of electorate

victories, including the highly-contested Senate race in the state.

The reviewed plan to redistrict Ohio has been accused by some as being evidence of gerrymandering, or crafting legislative districts in such a manner that one political party seems to benefit more. This process sees the opposition party have their votes essentially isolated instead of accurately portraying demographic trends.

"Obviously making unfair legislative maps is wrong," Sophia Forlenza, a Xavier alumnus, said.

"On the other hand, if Ohio's voting patterns have changed, should (the public) be surprised by the new map?" she added.

Antonio and Russo have called on Ohio voters to take the process away from politicians and put it with a citizens commission. A proposed amendment that would create an independent redistricting committee was passed by Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost last week, and is under the review of the Ohio Ballot Board for placement on the November 2024 ballot.

The five prior redistricting maps made by the commission were vetoed by the Ohio Supreme Court.



BY GAVIN STEELE
Staff Writer

An original 1858 ambrotype of Abraham Lincoln was donated to the president's library and museum in Illinois. The copy of the genuine photo was originally given by Lincoln to Charles Lane, who was injured while testing one of the cannons for a Lincoln campaign rally that year (Sept. 26).

Jens Haaling, a Danish artist who submitted two empty canvases entitled, "Take the Money and Run" after being paid by a museum to create a piece for its exhibition on labor conditions, has appealed a court ruling to return the money. He insisted that he did actually produce a piece of art and never committed a crime (Sept. 27).

Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman received the 2023 Nobel Prize in Medicine. They developed the technology behind the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Oct. 2).

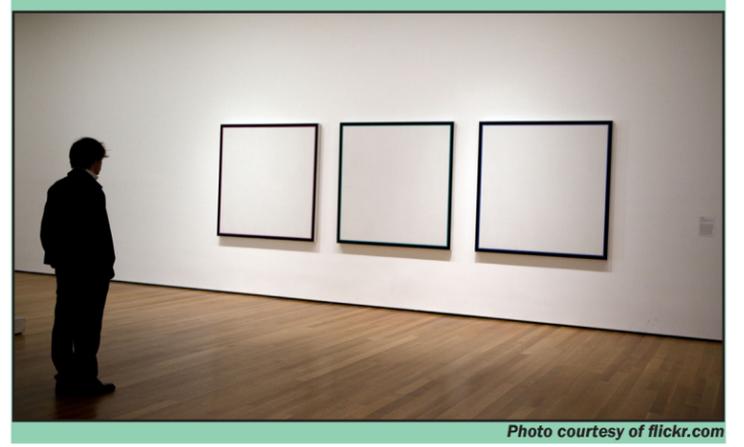


Photo courtesy of flickr.com

LEGO Doesn't Know When to Let Go

A quick scan of the LEGO website or some perusing of the LEGO aisle at your local Target will likely result in the same recycled format: licensed themes or expensive architecture and botanical sets aimed at adults. For a company that prides itself on imagination and creativity, there is a frightening lack of original themes, a staple of the LEGO brand just a decade ago.

Themes such as Power Miners, Aqua Raiders and Space Police were fascinating to me when they were released in the late-2000s. These original themes included a fresh set of characters and a mission for our new heroes: discovering Atlantis, stopping intergalactic crime or even stopping Dracula from shrouding the entire world in darkness.

LEGO provided the backstory and characters, leaving you to do the rest. Television shorts, books and hidden lore all accompanied these themes. Many sets were even interconnected with crossover characters such as Brains, a scientist recruited to explore the last frontiers of the world, who appeared in Power Miners and Atlantis.

It's not unreasonable to state that everyone is sick of the multiverse movie format that has been *Clockwork Orange*'d into our minds, but hear me out when I say LEGO was absolutely cooking some major plotlines in 2009. Hypaxus-8, the alien king from Alien Conquest, can be seen gifting other-worldly artifacts as a hidden Easter egg to leaders in the Atlantis and Pharaoh's Quest series.

LEGO rewarded those with curiosity by including these tidbits in the back of directions, box art and other materials. An alien helping build the pyramids and granting Atlanteans futuristic technology? Come on, that's so cool!

Other LEGO original themes, such as Mars Mission, Vikings and Dino, saw comfortable success during the early to mid-2000s, but they typically only lasted two waves in favor of the next theme. While it is regrettable that many of these sets did not last for more than a year or two, LEGO does deserve some props for putting significant effort into creating an original and intriguing theme

each and every time.

However, in 2023, that is no longer the case. Shelves in the LEGO store are packed with sets from blockbuster franchises, namely *Star Wars*, Marvel and *Jurassic World*. While LEGO started producing their first licensed themes in 1999 with *Star Wars*, original themes always were prevalent to complement these sets.

I like *Star Wars* as much as the next guy. I can tolerate *Jurassic World*. Yet, has anyone seen a good Marvel movie since *Endgame*? These blockbuster franchises have been recycling the same plotlines and storyboard for the past couple of years, and unfortunately, it has trickled down to LEGO, with the company producing subpar licensed sets for a quick buck.

LEGO's sole original theme this year is called *DreamZzz*. The name alone is everything you need to know: it's lazy, unoriginal and substantially lackluster. One could call it a certifiable dumpster fire. Although a show accompanies the sets — which is a move in a positive direction — the theme overall is just bland and half-baked.

While the architecture and plants series are an enjoyable experience to build and display for older fans of LEGO, the majority of them are upwards of \$100 — or even just on the wrong side of \$50. The beauty of the mid-2000s themes is that there was a reasonable price scale with sets ranging from a few dollars to just cracking \$100. If you did not want to buy the set with the final boss, no worries! A couple of the cheaper sets would have given you more than enough to fully experience the theme. With the architecture theme being little more than an increasingly expensive paperweight, buying LEGO sets nowadays is oftentimes not worth the hefty price tag.

The LEGO themes that were released in the early to mid 2000s were the embodiment of the company vision. Sets during this time period were unique and fun, with the themes and their accompanying lore being truly remarkable. This is what LEGO was and should strive to be.

For a company that has dominated the toy market for decades, there is honestly

a sense of melancholy that the company has chosen to place profit alone over quality themes. It's not terribly difficult to complain about "the man" and corporate greed. These themes frankly made my childhood and I will forever value them. Building sets and making up a world with my older brothers are memories I will always look back on with a smile.

Perhaps the LEGO company really did lose sight of itself and its mission that spans back to 1932, or maybe the childlike wonder and rose-tinted glasses of adolescence have finally been lifted. Here's to the bittersweet beauty of the past and the unknown of the future.



Joseph Nichols is a staff writer for *News-wire*. He is a junior English and history double major from Cincinnati.

Swivel Me This

The lightbulb, the airplane, the Hot Cheeto. All inventions that have single handedly advanced the lifestyle of humankind. However, while these are all deserving of Nobel prizes, there is a certain creation that has gone unappreciated since its inception — even though hundreds of them populate our very university and other universities worldwide.

The swivel chair is one of the foremost innovations in the field of convenience since the portable pencil sharpener. First, a little history: The first iterations of the swivel chair were created in Nuremberg, Germany in the early 16th century. However, that design was far more focused on vertical change than moving around while still seated.

A little time later across the pond, America's very own mac and cheese enthusiast

Thomas Jefferson improved the design of swivel chair, styling it to its modern, beautiful and movable version by adding the wheels and the 360 degree mobility, while still keeping the pump that controlled how far from the ground you sat. In fact, it's said that the Declaration of Independence was written by Jefferson as he sat in a swivel chair. So, in a roundabout way, we have the swivel chair to thank for the founding of the United States of America.

Over time, the swivel chair would be honed and improved upon, not unlike the telephone or car. There would be additions in the forms of adjustable armrests, a bendable back and even the popular gaming chair subcategory that many students in particular use today.

For it is in the modern age where the swivel chair re-

mains extremely relevant. "I think they're cool... I like to spin around in circles, who doesn't? How can you not like spinny chairs?" first-year Philosophy, Politics and the Public major Drew Sikes said.

Amazing. Honestly, what is there to prefer in a regular chair that a swivel chair wouldn't accommodate? They are built for optimal movement and no matter where the person is in the room, you can look them right in the eyes. But it doesn't stop there, and neither do the chairs.

By having wheels, they can move anywhere — as long as that place doesn't have any stairs on the way. Really though, you can travel down the hallway, across the classroom and even across campus if you're daring enough.

However, what may be perfect to some could be interpreted as flawed to oth-

ers. "They (swivel chairs) are great because they allow free movement around the room... They can also be an issue should people get distracted spinning in chairs," first-year and swivel chair-doubter Daniel Irvine said.

A fair take I will say, although after the positive and mixed comes the negative views of swivel chairs. "I hate swivel chairs. They have caused me to hurt my back and are very annoying when people keep spinning," first-year and swivel chair-hater Stephen Klayer said.

Though these hazards and opinions are obviously valid, I will tie back to the beginning comparison. Lightbulbs can shock people, airplanes can crash and Hot Cheetos can turn everything you touch into an orange, spicy mess. But they are still absolutely advancements. Nothing is

perfect, and perhaps it is that small sense of danger that the swivel chair represents that makes it so alluring to any student. I do not believe that if you surveyed people's favorite inventions, the swivel chair would even crack the top 50. However, swivel chairs are an undersung invention whose differences in lives may be relatively small, but can make a difference in any setting.



Luca Filigenzi is a guest writer for *News-wire*. He is a Philosophy, Politics and the Public major from Oak Ridge, TN.

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

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Sprinkler? I Hardly Know Her

Nearly every night, I enjoy a short walk around campus to clear my mind prior to going to bed. Last week, the night after a very rainy day, I was walking along my usual route down the Academic Mall and was shocked to find that my path was entirely obstructed by the sweeping spray of sprinklers wetting the already-dampened grass and the brick walkways, forming pools of water.

Not only was I frustrated that I had to bear the spray of cold water as I skirted past the sprinklers' line of fire, but I was bothered by the incredible waste of water — and this was not an isolated incident.

There are several issues with Xavier's groundskeeping as it relates to watering and maintaining the grass. First, the range and span of the sprinklers on campus are highly inaccurate. I'm rather confident in saying that most students can recall a time where they may have confused campus walkways for an outdoor water park, as the sprinklers were spraying

the sidewalks more than they were the grass.

Aside from this being an annoyance to students walking to and from class during the early parts of the morning, this contributes to a notable waste of water. I have seen countless puddles form on the walkways and water flowing into nearby drains rather than being soaked up by the grass.

For instance, that aforementioned night, as I headed toward the Village Apartments I saw water from the sprinklers up near Schott Hall streaming through the grooves in the brick pavement all the way down Dana Avenue, notably far from the intended target patch of grass.

Additionally, let's not forget it had rained all day. What purpose was there to be watering the grass? What this tells me is that the campus sprinkler system is set on a timer in order to autonomously water the grass without having to monitor it.

However, as I observed, this allows for a great deal of water to be wasted, and it ap-

pears to allow problems with the sprinkler to go unchecked.

For instance, I have seen a number of sprinklers that simply don't spray the nice mist they should. Some appear to be malfunctioning with water gorging out, not making it even an inch from the sprinkler head which forms those large puddles of water that escapes the grass.

To a student like myself, I see these puddles and think of them as a minor inconvenience as I hop over them, but I have also begun to wonder what the cost of this really looks like. I can imagine Xavier does not have a cheap water bill, and when I think about the fact that gallons of water end up wasted from a poorly managed and faulty sprinkler system, that could certainly amount to a needless waste of money, not to mention a poor expression of our commitment to sustainability.

As for a solution to this problem, there are several approaches. More attention needs to be spent on the maintenance and the use of the

sprinklers. There is no reason they should be watering the grass after a rainy day. Over-watering the grass could contribute more harm than good, perpetuating the problem it seeks to resolve.

Generally speaking, Xavier is in need of a more intuitive and updated sprinkler system. The span of the sprinklers needs to be more precise to ensure minimal water ends up wasted and drying up on the sidewalks, flowing into nearby drains or spraying unsuspecting victims walking to class. While I understand this is likely not a cheap solution, I believe in the long run we would save more money with less water waste, and it is a strategy in which Xavier can affirm its commitment to a sustainable campus.

A more cost effective solution in which its benefits are twofold would be to cut the grass less often or not as short. When grass is cut too short it is far more vulnerable to the sun and is more likely to become non-aesthetic brown and dry, requiring watering

to revive it. So, if we cut the grass less, letting it grow slightly longer, we can limit the amount of gas spent on mowers and protect the grass from dying without having to water it as frequently.

Since we don't water it as frequently, the grass doesn't regrow as quickly and we would have effectively created a new cycle of grounds maintenance that is more sustainable and requires less effort. That combined with improving the efficiency of the sprinkler system will allow the once waterpark to become the garden it ought to be.



Jackson Hare is the Campus News Editor for *NewsWire*. He is Philosophy, Politics and the Public and psychology double major from Chardon, Ohio.

Ay, I Want My Music Back

If you, like me, have used TikTok in the past couple of weeks, you may have heard the new Travis Scott song with a 21 Savage feature, "whiplash." Melding together a dramatic opening and some decent lyricism from 21, the song is pretty good. It's also completely generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI).

A "creator" by the name of Ghostwriter977 released the song, which was not their first, as they had released a song called "Heart on My Sleeve," an AI-generated song with Drake and the Weeknd on the vocals.

This has been a part of a worrying trend in the music industry, with AI quickly asserting itself as a force in the music scene. Some of it has been humor-based, such as classic songs sung by AI imitating popular public figures — the best of which is likely an AI-cover of "Big Iron" with President Obama's voice that I came across. However, Ghostwriter977 and those that may follow them are striking a

different chord — artists' names are stuck on pieces of which they had no part in the creation.

Sure, we can all sit and laugh at the newest cover of a song that has vocals by an AI-imitation of Plankton from *Spongebob*, but this is quickly becoming concerning. AI seems to be a technology that is only improving, which brings in more worries. If one were to show "whiplash" to the average person, there is a good chance that they may not be able to tell that it is a song devoid of humanity in its creation.

As AI continues to improve, what is the stopping point? Furthermore, what are artists supposed to do when their likenesses are uploaded into an AI program, free for human manipulation to run wild?

We can start with the latter question. Artists today, musicians, actors or otherwise, should be lobbying for as little AI influence as possible for a few different reasons.

Firstly, there are economic concerns. If record companies can simply allow an AI program of a superstar to run and create music that sounds close to being alright or human, that will cost them much less in the long run than paying people for their efforts, whether that be anyone from the audio engineers to the superstar themselves. Ask yourself what is more likely: will companies be more interested in preserving the humanity of music or in preserving their bottom line?

The next worry that comes up is the future of music itself. Will there be a point where the music stars of tomorrow are simply AIs that have prompts fed into them? If we can already have an AI imitate a superstar, how long will it take for an AI program to become the superstar? In what is an increasingly hyper-consumerist culture that cares more for the sound of the music and the aesthetic rather than for the artist, what would stop a corporation from

pouring in all of the money they can into owning an AI program that can provide the sound and aesthetic the public is looking for?

There is one final concern that unites all the issues I take with the presence of AI in the popular media: The revival of artists who have passed away. A few months ago, the Beatles announced that they had a new song in the works, even though only half of the original band is still living. Using AI tools, John Lennon and George Harrison would be brought back to life for one final song with the Beatles — which should absolutely horrify us. Those that have passed on, creative giants who influenced millions, are now reduced to a few words typed into a prompt on a computer, then spat back out for consumption.

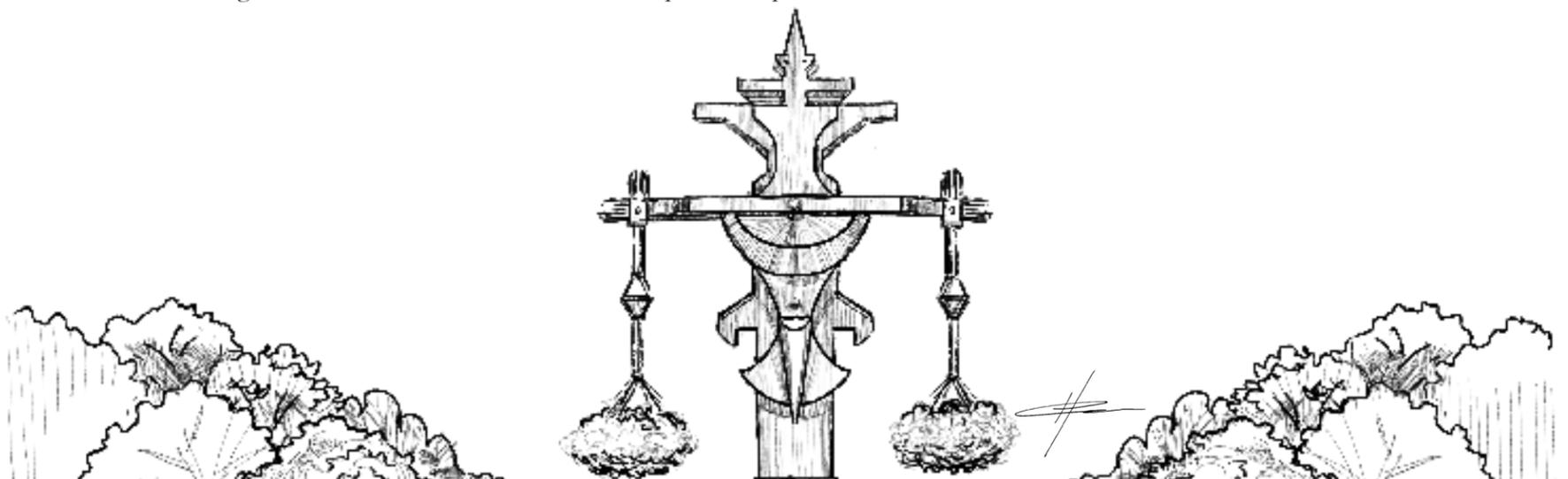
The promise of AI is ultimately, in my opinion, the reason we should avoid it: It takes humanity out of the work. In each example I brought up, the art being created lacks a sort of hu-

man aspect. The most creative part of the process is thinking of the prompt to type in. Instead of an opportunity to appreciate human creation, which itself is spontaneous and various, we are gifted with the robotic result of a few clicks and clacks on a keyboard.

The future of music, once a boundary that dared humanity to create a new and innovative world, is a bleak future filled with the 0s and 1s that make up a computer program. It is our duty to keep AI out of music.



Christian Cullen is a staff writer for *NewsWire*. He is a junior psychology major from Louisville.



Bengals' Silver Linings After 1-3 Start

BY JOSEPH NICHOLS
Staff Writer

On Sunday, the Titans showed the Bengals not one bit of Southern hospitality in a 27-3 beatdown. This week four stumble halted the apparent momentum built by the Bengals in a 19-16 win over their opponent in Super Bowl LVII, the Los Angeles Rams, in week three. Despite this relatively lackluster start, there's possibly a smattering of silver linings to Cincinnati's rocky start. A piece of upbeat news is what Bengals fans desperately need after an embarrassing start to the season.



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

After a resurgent win in a Super Bowl LVII rematch against the Rams in Monday Night primetime, the Tennessee Titans defense played Joe Burrow and company like a fiddle. An away game against the 1-3 Cardinals awaits the Bengals on Sunday.

The Best Couple That Never Was:

Cincinnati's front office signed right tackle La'el Collins last season, a huge pickup for the offensive line. He had a rollercoaster season while battling a back injury in 2022, but he looked to anchor the offensive line with the Bengals' big fish in the 2023 free agency class: Orlando Brown Jr. If fully healthy, this duo could have been one of the best left and right tackle combos in the league. However, Collins was cut as a cap casualty after week one, still unable to suit up and play healthy. Parting is

such sweet sorrow.

Best Left Calf/ Worst Right Calf:

Joe Burrow's left calf is mythical, this calf walks on water and parts the Red Sea. His calf has a beta fish tank in his room so that everyone knows he is above the betas of this world. This puppy is bigger than a rhino. I'm talking crypto podcast host, with uncharted levels of alpha energy exuding from this muscle. Alas, fate does not look so kindly on the savior of Cin-

cinnati's right calf.

A calf strain during training camp kept Burrow off the field, with the injury getting reagravated in a week two loss to the Ravens. Next time Hoxworth Blood Center calls me during class, I will be asking if I can donate my calves to one Joseph Lee Burrow.

The Player That I Wouldn't Want to Meet in an Abandoned Alley:

Week three saw the Bengals d-line bring down Stafford six times, with a pair of sacks

coming from Trey Hendrickson, who has totaled three and half sacks this year. In addition, the pass rusher made his presence known throughout the week four Titans game, notching a sack on a crucial third down. However, this production might have a much more sinister side. Hendrickson has been on the record saying that he has periods of blackouts during games that he does not remember.

Best One-Week Wonder: Bengals stud Ja'Marr

Chase was not able to connect with Burrow for the first two weeks, but that changed in a week three victory against the Rams. The third-year receiver finally got back in stride, going for 141 yards on only twelve receptions and a touchdown to help secure a Bengals victory late in the game. The Bengals are 1-3, and although Chase only put up stellar numbers in week three, there's still hope for the remainder of the season. To all the Rams fans out there: close but no Ja'Marr.

Reds Miss Wild Card Amid NL Central Slugfest

BY DYLAN PAULSON
Newswire Intern

The Cincinnati Reds season came to a close after Sunday's 4-3 loss against the St. Louis Cardinals, ending what many Reds fans are calling a disappointing conclusion to an otherwise promising season.

The Reds had high hopes coming into this season, expecting big things from short-stop Elly De La Cruz and an all-around roster coming off a devastating 100-loss season in 2022.

Coming to the end of the season, the Reds were on pace to become one of the only teams in MLB history to go from having such a poor record one season to make the playoffs the season after.

Finishing at a meager 82-80, the Reds were only two wins away from reaching this benchmark. However, poor losses to the St. Louis Cardinals, Minnesota Twins and the Pittsburgh Pirates and a disastrous 13-12 loss to the latter of the list after being up 9-0 early in the game led to the Reds falling just short of reaching the MLB postseason.

However, for a team that has been one of the bottom feeders of the league for the past few years, many fans are optimistic about the future,

and with several rising stars on the roster, things seem to be on the up and up for the hometown team.

One such star, Elly De La Cruz, finished the year with career highs in home runs (28), RBIs (86), and stolen bases (47). There are high hopes that De La Cruz will be

spearheading a revived Reds franchise next season. The Reds showed flashes of their potential despite some unfortunate falters when playoffs were on the line, including knocking off the Red Sox in a series, as well as sweeping both the Chicago Cubs and one of the best teams in the

MLB, the Texas Rangers, all early on in the season.

While the year may not have ended the way that fans had hoped for, with flashes such as those and the aforementioned promise coming out of much of the roster, hopes are high for 2024 and beyond for this team.

Nevertheless, the Reds have a great deal to be excited for in the coming years. With newly-hired team president Nick Krall coming onto the scene as the offseason begins, it seems that as the roster is turning a new leaf, manage-

ment plans to do the same.

After finishing 3rd in the NL Central and, as previously noted, falling just short of playoff hopes this season, all that is left for the team to do is to continue chasing teams like the Brewers, Cubs, Phillies and Marlins, all of whom beat them out for playoff positioning this year.

But with a young roster as primed for a breakout year as Cincinnati, expectations could not be any higher for this coming season. For now, though, the Reds will watch the MLB postseason from home.

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The Creator is Artificially Intelligent

BY JOSÉ MARÍA GÁMEZ-LAMADRID
Guest Writer

The Creator signals the return to the silver screen of Director Gareth Edwards, of *Godzilla* (2014) and *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* (2016) fame. Edwards' new blockbuster sci-fi epic centers on the classic "humanity vs AI" conflict.

Production design is a vital component for bringing a director's vision to life. Pair it with a great script, and production design can elevate the plot with a beautiful style to match the substance, a la *Avatar: The Way of Water*. One misstep though, and you end up with something more like the *Star Wars* prequels or *Ready Player One*, where the production design makes up

for the incoherent script and masks its flaws.

The Creator tries to stand alongside the former but falls more towards the latter.

The film explains that after the creation of "simulants" — Edwards' version of AI that resembles humans — Earth has erupted into nuclear warfare between the US and New Asia, which is a safe haven for simulants who wish to live in peace.

The movie centers on former U.S. sergeant Joshua (John David Washington), who has retired after an undercover mission gone wrong took the lives of his wife Maya (Gemma Chan) and their unborn child. However, things take a turn after Colonel Howell (Allison Janney) arrives on his doorstep with a mission to destroy a secret New Asian

superweapon and a revelation: Maya is alive. This weapon is neither a missile nor a bomb though, but a simulant child (Madeleine Yuna Voyles) with unique abilities and knowledge of Maya's location. Torn between obeying orders and finding Maya, Joshua goes rogue, christening the child "Alphie" as the two venture deeper into enemy territory to find his long-lost wife.

The Creator could be considered a "concept art film" with stunning visuals beautifully translated onto screen. The film oozes style and wears its *Akira*, *Ghost in the Shell* and *Neon Genesis Evangelion* inspirations proudly on its sleeve. Setting the main bulk of the plot in the rainforests of New Asia to present a coexistence between machine and nature feels fresh compared to other sci-fi movies about AI. It's delicious eye candy, expertly concocted by the magicians at Industrial Light & Magic.

I just wish that the script was given the same level of care.

If you've seen *The Terminator* or *The Matrix*, you've seen this movie before. If you've watched any number of the "Wolf and Cub"-inspired media such as *The Mandalorian*, *The Last of Us* and *Thor: Love and Thunder* that have dominated Hollywood for the past



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

The Creator sees Gareth Edwards return to directing. However, to our reviewer, he offers nothing new and wastes all the sci-fi flick's potential.

few years, then you've seen this movie before.

It's enjoyable, but offers nothing new. The most frustrating part is that there's shreds of originality that are never fully fleshed out. In the way that the movie opens, the plot seems as if it might take the road never traveled — a protagonist that supports the machines and fights for their freedom, only to pull the rug out from under and reveal that Joshua is on an undercover mission. There are glimpses of Bush-era political characterization of the U.S., the army takes a war on terror "if you're not with us, then you're against us" approach regarding countries that sup-

port simulants, but it's never mentioned again past the introduction.

That's not to say that the script doesn't have its moments.

The movie's all-star cast delivers with their performances. Voyles has a great debut role as Alphie, and Janney plays a compelling antagonist against Washington. There's moments of levity and humor, and a great gag regarding walking bomb-robots that stomp into the battlefield.

Credit must be given where it's due, but the script is so undercooked that it's hard not to imagine what could've been if Edwards wasn't *the* creator of *The Creator*.



Photo courtesy of pickpik.com

Strays: a Tired, Old Dog With No New Tricks

BY LUCA FILIGENZI
Guest Writer

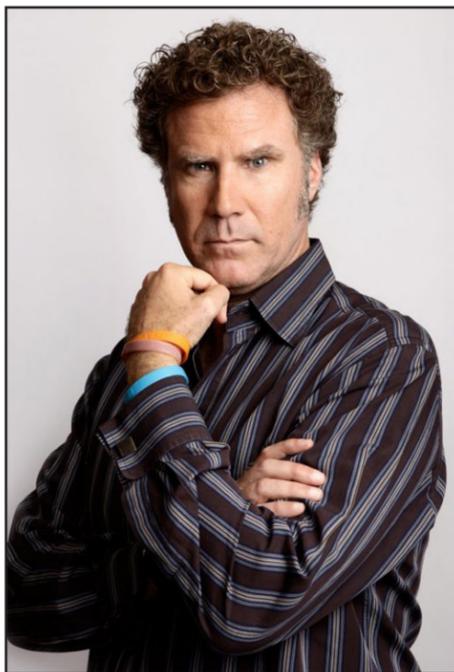
Cinema can tell a gut-wrenching story about a prisoner seeking redemption and escape, or a beautiful love story so realistic you'll forget it's between robots. *Strays* (2023) uses cinema to show dogs getting high on mushrooms and making dookie jokes. Get ready for some hating, because these dogs' purpose is to drive people insane.

Strays, released Aug. 18 and directed by Josh Greenbaum, centers around Will Ferrell and Jamie Foxx, who play dogs Reggie and Bug, respectively.

The duo go on a quest to remove the penis from Ferrell's cruel owner, played by Will Forte. All the while they meet several other stray dogs, and a new family is forged.

This film takes something that people love and associate with wholesomeness — dogs — and bastardizes their image in a crude attempt to achieve maturity in their humor.

Beyond just the dogs, this film taints the record of the beloved actors involved. Will Ferrell is one of the most popular comedic actors of this century, and Jamie Foxx has won Oscars for his performances. Now they're doing this. *Strays* doesn't give their characters any substance or



Photos courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org and flickr.com

In *Strays*, Will Ferrell plays a Border Terrier named Reggie who vows to enact revenge on his abusive owner with a pack of fellow dogs. While the cast is star-studded, our writer finds the plot juvenile and far from stellar.

sympathy to work with. Rule of thumb: The more human qualities a character has, the better they are. These dogs have no character to speak of outside of basic traits, like "funny," "quirky" and "dumb." These are just basic desires and goals to forward the predictable plot without any concern of the journey that these characters should be having.

One of the few positives comments that can be said about this film is that it is voice acted well. Ferrell, Foxx and Forte all do an admirable job, bringing their years of

voice acting experience to the table.

However, as stated, it only serves to emphasize the crude and unfunny aspects that riddle the rest of this god awful movie. It cannot be stressed enough that the plot of the film revolves around biting off a penis in the name of vengeance.

In other films with a quest, there is a greater purpose, such as in Peter Jackson's *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. There is the base quest of destroying the ring, but in that journey there are themes of destiny,

corruption, family, heritage, power, evil and so many more brought to life via competent story-telling and direction.

Meanwhile in *Strays*, the closest thing to a moral is "we don't choose our family." However, they don't actually spend time signifying that to the viewer: Instead, they cram seven drug, alcohol and sex jokes into a single minute. Some can be nice, but gross is not funny or tasteful. A combination of gross and funny is tasteful. This film only has one of those two traits. Can you guess which one?

Either way, the core element of any film is its story, its uniqueness, its reason for existing. *Strays* offers very little in terms of worthwhile story and even less in terms of themes that can be applied to daily lives.

However, it is true that no story is inherently awful based on its plot. Films can be excellent despite having admittedly silly plots. While this film is quite silly, it lacks development. Perhaps in the hands of more competent staff, *Strays* would be a genuine piece of art, hailed by critics and audiences as a cornerstone of the entertainment industry. However, in this world, it is little more than a dog dropping. A smelly, unpleasant to look at, piece of filth that you'd scrape off your boot and never think about again.

If you showed this film to the wolves that would evolve to become these dogs thousands of years ago, they would first be confused as they cannot understand language. Rest assured, if they could understand, their disappointment in their descendants would be immeasurable.

Its plot is weak, devoid of purpose, morals, or even competent comedy, and the absolute worst part is that it wastes actors who have done far, FAR better work than their work here.

All Praise to Our Lorde and Savior

Reflecting on Pure Heroine's legacy as the album enters its 10-year anniversary

BY AUDREY ELWOOD
Newswire Intern

10 years ago, you may have heard the song "Royals" by Lorde for the first time. Now, the song is cemented in the cultural zeitgeist. On Sept. 27, Lorde's debut album *Pure Heroine* turned 10 years old. Every day since then, we have felt the cultural impact of the album on music, culture and angsty 14-year-olds on Tumblr.

When *Pure Heroine* came out, Lorde was only 16 years old, living in the suburbs of Auckland, New Zealand. Her debut single "Royals" was record-breaking, winning Lorde her first Grammys for Song of the Year and Best Solo Pop Performance. Hailed as the most revolutionary song in the mainstream since Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit," "Royals" captured the moment.

This song and the album overall paved the way for many of the young female stars today. This niche carved out by Lorde is the reason we have women like Clairo, Billie Eilish, Olivia Rodrigo and

Halsey. *Pure Heroine* perfectly encapsulates the melodrama of teenage years and brought them into the mainstream.

In the early 2010s, there was a distinct sound hailed as "recession pop:" over-produced vocals, jabbed by backtracks, with lyrical themes of overindulgence and looming doom.

Lorde broke this mold and gave us a minimalist tone. The lyrics are simple, but they relate to the uncertainty of growing up.

While other songs were club tracks about spending beyond your means, *Pure Heroine* was about the social dynamics of high school and staying up too late. In the album not making any social commentary, it makes the ultimate social com-

mentary: Change is inevitable. "Royals" may have been the mainstream hit, but the

real standout track within the fandom is "Ribs." "Ribs" induces all the anxiety that comes with coming of age. The back track is a sleepy melody at first, which speeds up slowly and almost overwhelms the listener.

With lyrics like "My mom and dad let me stay home / It drives you crazy getting old, and You're the only friend I need / Sharing beds like little kids / And laughing 'til our ribs get tough," we are painted an image of a child moving into teen-hood.

The small milestones of adolescence, such as being able to stay at home by yourself, contribute to the overarching fear of

growing up. "Ribs" is the anthem of a generation who doesn't want to grow up.

In "Tennis Court," Lorde impresses a feeling upon the listener of "What do you have to lose?" Nothing matters, we are young and we can just hang around and do whatever. We can be boring old people one day, but not today. It's a Camus-esque absurdist take from a teenage girl's perspective. Life is scary and hard, but don't take it too seriously, "It's a new art form, showin' people how little we care / We're so happy, even when we're smilin' out of fear."

Pure Heroine was groundbreaking for its time. It birthed an icon within the "sad girl" genre. 10 years on, is the album one of the best? Not at all. But, it set the new standard for alt-pop, especially with women. It is a marvel for what it is. The backtracks can be repetitive along with the vocals. However, Lorde has had more than enough time to grow.

Her legacy is solidified in the history of music, and Lorde has changed how we view the craft forever.



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

Waste Away Again : Newport's New Margaritaville

BY LEAH BARNARD
Guest Writer

A new expansion of Jimmy Buffett's resort chain, Margaritaville, has started construction in the Newport on the Levee district of Newport, Ky.

The Margaritaville resort is set to be completed in Fall 2026. The resort will be located beside the Ohio River, consisting of 264 rooms and a JWB Grill along with other amenities overlooking the Cincinnati skyline.

The project will be completed by a joint venture between Stormont Hospitality Group and North American Properties.

Renowned singer-songwriter Jimmy Buffett passed away in early September following a four-year-long battle with skin cancer. Following his passing, long time devotees and newfound fans eagerly streamed his music, leading to a revival of Buffett's music and brand. Margaritaville Hotel & Resorts is currently in the midst of an expansion following Buffett's death, with another adult-only resort opening internationally in Riviera Maya, Mexico.

Drawing inspiration from Buffett's hit song of the same name, the Margaritaville brand boasts a multimillion dollar empire that continues to preserve the late singer's

legacy.

With financial incentives paving the way for the Margaritaville resort's future and the resort preparing to open its doors, it is predicted the resort will develop Kentucky's tourism industry, as well as bring a new job market and cultural scene to Newport.

"Newport is an important part of the \$1.95 billion industry in the region," said Julie Kirkpatrick, president and CEO of the Kentucky tourism guide company meetNKY. "This hotel project will offer new visitors to the area an elevated experience on the Kentucky waterfront."

The Newport Margaritaville resort is predicted to cost \$133.6 million. The resort is slated to offer 282 jobs total, 187 full-time and 95 part-time, for those within the tri-state area. The job opportunities will be spread between the resort's restaurants, hotel and entertainment venues.

"With the amount of customers a typical Margaritaville (resort) attracts, it could substantially help the local economy," first-year marketing major Dakota Brooks said. "Margaritaville Resorts are good by themselves. It's an experience."

According to the company's website, the company reported a gross annual revenue of \$2.2 billion in 2022. This revenue was predominantly gener-

ated from their "lodging locations" and restaurants, similar to the resort and restaurants planned for Newport.

"We just celebrated our best year on record for Kentucky tourism in 2022," Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear said in a news release. "With exciting projects like Margaritaville being announced, we know this success will only continue."

The Kentucky Tourism Development Finance Authority granted initial authorization this past week for roughly \$33 million in tax incentives for the project to the Newport Hotel Associates, pending final approval.

Under the provisions of the Tourist Development Act, projects that fall within the eligibility of the tourism sector, such as the Margaritaville Resort, can recoup up to 25% of their sanctioned development expenses through the sales tax generated by the production.

Senior nursing major Elizabeth Herron is a self-proclaimed Jimmy Buffett mega-fan. She is excited for the resort and the role it plays with honoring Buffett's memory.

"I'm so excited to have a place so close by to celebrate such an amazing singer-songwriter and enjoy his music in a fun and immersive way," Herron said.



BY KYRA HUDSON
Staff Writer

- *Harry Potter* actor Sir Michael Gambon passed away at age 82 (Sept. 28).
- Gypsy Rose Blanchard was announced to be released from prison early on parole (Sept. 29).
- Beyoncé has announced a *Renaissance* tour film, which will debut in theaters Dec. 1 (Oct. 1).
- Anya Taylor-Joy married singer Malcom McRae in Italy (Oct. 2).



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

Slated to be completed by Fall 2026, construction of the next Margaritaville resort has commenced across the Ohio River in Newport.



Aries: You're a Cutco Knives finance bro. I promise, you will never make money from this pyramid scheme.



Taurus: You're a finance gurl. You secretly love your business casual. You slay WCB.



Gemini: You're the "cowboy boots to class" finance bro. You are definitely from Louisville.



Cancer: You're the Delta Sig finance bro. Stop begging me to rush! I don't want to.



Leo: You're the gamer finance bro who looks like he hasn't showered in a couple weeks. You barely come to class, but you get an A anyways.



Virgo: You're the try-hard finance bro. You don't need to do any special favors for the professor. Just talk to him.



Libra: You're a "just here for my MRS degree" finance bro. You picked business to find a husband.



Scorpio: You're a finance bro who would definitely post something like "the grind never stops" on your main Snapchat story after doing one 20-minute assignment.



Sagittarius: You're the Miller Lite, "too much gel in the hair" finance bro. You smell like Axe body spray.



Capricorn: You're the hunter green, Patagonia vest finance bro. You're sustainable--we get it.



Aquarius: You're the Smith Scholar finance bro. You're not special.



Pisces: You're the "kiss the homies goodnight" finance bro. You'll unpack that later.

THE CURSE OF THE FINANCE BRO

BY DOMINIC DEGRINNEY, NEWSWIRE INTERN

Of all the fauna in the concrete jungle of corporate America, there is one species that stands above the rest. "Finance bros," as they have come to be dubbed after their own incessant use of the word "bro," are defined by their tailored suits and slicked-back hair. Their mastery of spreadsheets makes them believe that they are the wizards of this time. If one were to peel back the layers of the barbaric world of finance, they would be proven to be more like the arrogant and egotistical nobles of the medieval age.

It is nearly impossible to differentiate one finance bro from the other, as they all strut into work, coffee in hand, to their respective cubicle-shrine of self-importance. Laden on their desks are multiple screens that they use to "closely watch the market," but actually remain forever playing the latest hockey or football game. All along the walls one will find the cringey motivational posters of an aspirational 12-year-old from the 2000s saying, "Risk it for the Biscuit" or "YOLO." Each finance bro believes that each day they spend slaving away in the office is the one when Elon Musk finally realizes their talents. Their precious Mr. Elon will shove them in a desk in front of a computer for the rest of their lives and milk them for every idea their tiny finance brain is worth.

To the average finance bro, the idea that there are hobbies that are outside the realm of money or vanity are practically impossible. Each finance bro revels in his daily workouts so that he can post his thirst-trap and brushes up on his economic jargon to blast his followers on TikTok. In a way, it is a tragedy to see how the vanity and the pursuit of the artificial greens of money blind the finance bro from seeing the greens of nature. This is exemplified by the fact there has been no instance in recorded history of a finance bro touching grass.

The most interesting aspect of a finance bro--and something that normal people could maybe learn something from-- is their stubbornness and unshakable belief in their own infallibility. The amount of confidence that it takes to cause the recession of an entire economy, ask for a government bail out and then walk away scot-free after decimating an entire nation is bewildering and honestly admirable. The average finance bro is so persistent that even after the greatest economic collapse of a generation they will just say, "pshhh, don't worry bro I got this, watch me bounce this b*tch back." This admirable confidence is both the greatest strength and weakness of the finance bro, but also leads to them getting careless and blowing generations worth of their clients money on a bad investment --"my bad bro."

The finance bro is the coalescence of the worst aspects of modern masculine, financial and popular culture. Under the masquerade of wealth, vanity and bravado; there is a sad truth. The true life of a finance bro is one that lacks true satisfaction in fields outside of the material: A life that is totally obsessed with and that will never be able to move beyond the materials, currencies and systems that control this world.



COMIC BY BRIANA DUNN

WHO WAS THE BEST FINANCE BRO IN THE BIBLE?

NOAH, BECAUSE HE FLOATED HIS STOCKS WHILE THE REST OF THE WORLD WAS IN LIQUIDATION.