



New Professor Releases First Book

XU's Dr. Conner Bassett explains weirdness, politics, art and his new novel Gad's Book

BY GRIFFIN BRAMMER
Arts & Entertainment
Editor

"There really is no reason to make art," Xavier's newest creative writing professor Dr. Conner Bassett said, "other than people just f*cking want to."

This credo to creativity served as some of the strongest inspiration for Bassett when writing his first novel, *Gad's Book*, which was released earlier this month.

The book centers around a tech worker-turned-writer who accidentally joins a group who may or may not be associated with Antifa.

"When I was a child, I told people I wanted to be a writer," Bassett said. However, he admitted that in the years that followed he never did much writing.

It was an Asian literature class in college that reignited his flame for writing. "(The poems we read) had an emotional import. That's when I started writing poems," Bassett said. From there, he received his MFA in poetry from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and studied American poetry at the University of California Santa Cruz.

However, during his first year of poetry studies, Bassett recounted how he was never re-

quired to read a single poem, only books on theory. This caused him to question what his studies were all about.

"I found myself getting disillusioned with poetic theory," Bassett said.

"Somewhere along the line, I found my poems trending more and more towards narrative," he said. Bassett credited novelists like Don DeLillo and Donald Barthelme for reminding him of his love of literature. "I like the stories — the experience, not so much the theorizing, or the scholarship. I wanted to get into the 'writing' not so much the 'academia.'"

After that realization, Bassett began work on *Gad's Book*. "I haven't written a poem since," he said.

Recounting those experiences, Bassett explained how he uses the political organization implied to be Antifa to explore the complexities of art

and political opinion as the character dives deeper and deeper into the group.

"There's this constant demand to serve culture and not art. Art should be subservient to the culture and serve politics. That to me is an impediment to artmaking," he said. "Really what this book is about for me is the confusion, the disorientation and the contradictions of thinking about politics nowadays."

Bassett used the main character's status as a writer to provide commentary on this political agenda. Every time the protagonist tells someone about his novel, they assume it serves some greater purpose or agenda, and he ends up being forced to discard his original ideas.

"In that sense, it's very autobiographical," Bassett said, laughing.

However, the similarities between author and character end there. "The real answer to that question is I don't know," Bassett said, when prodded on how much the protagonist was meant to resemble himself. Bassett said that he shares a lot of the character's anxieties, and he arrived at the interview dressed identically to the protagonist.

"If anything, the main character is a hyperbolic version of myself — a

caricature."

Bassett's apprehension to typical academia is in part why he came to Xavier in the first place. "Frankly, if I'm being totally honest, I'm interested in teaching at religious institutions because they feel more liberated than state schools," he said, pointing out how there are many ideas that can't be presented at a typical state school. "This sounds cliché, but I'm drawn to the Jesuit mission."

One of the first things Bassett teaches his classes is that he is a firm lover of all things weird in literature. Bassett also admits that *Gad's Book* is a perfect example of the weirdness he loves. "I took Toni Morrison's advice to write a book that you'd want to read," Bassett said. "This is a book I'd want to read."

When asked why he loves the literary weird so much, Bassett was conflicted.

"This feels like a moment where I have to say something important, and I have a hundred things I want to say," he said

"The more pleasing something is, the less likely that thing is to reflect reality," Bassett said. "There's something about 'weird' that approximates the real."

His perspective about weird-

ness as the best expression of reality harkens back to his childhood dreams of being a writer. He explained that he was influenced by a production of *Waiting for Godot* as a kid.

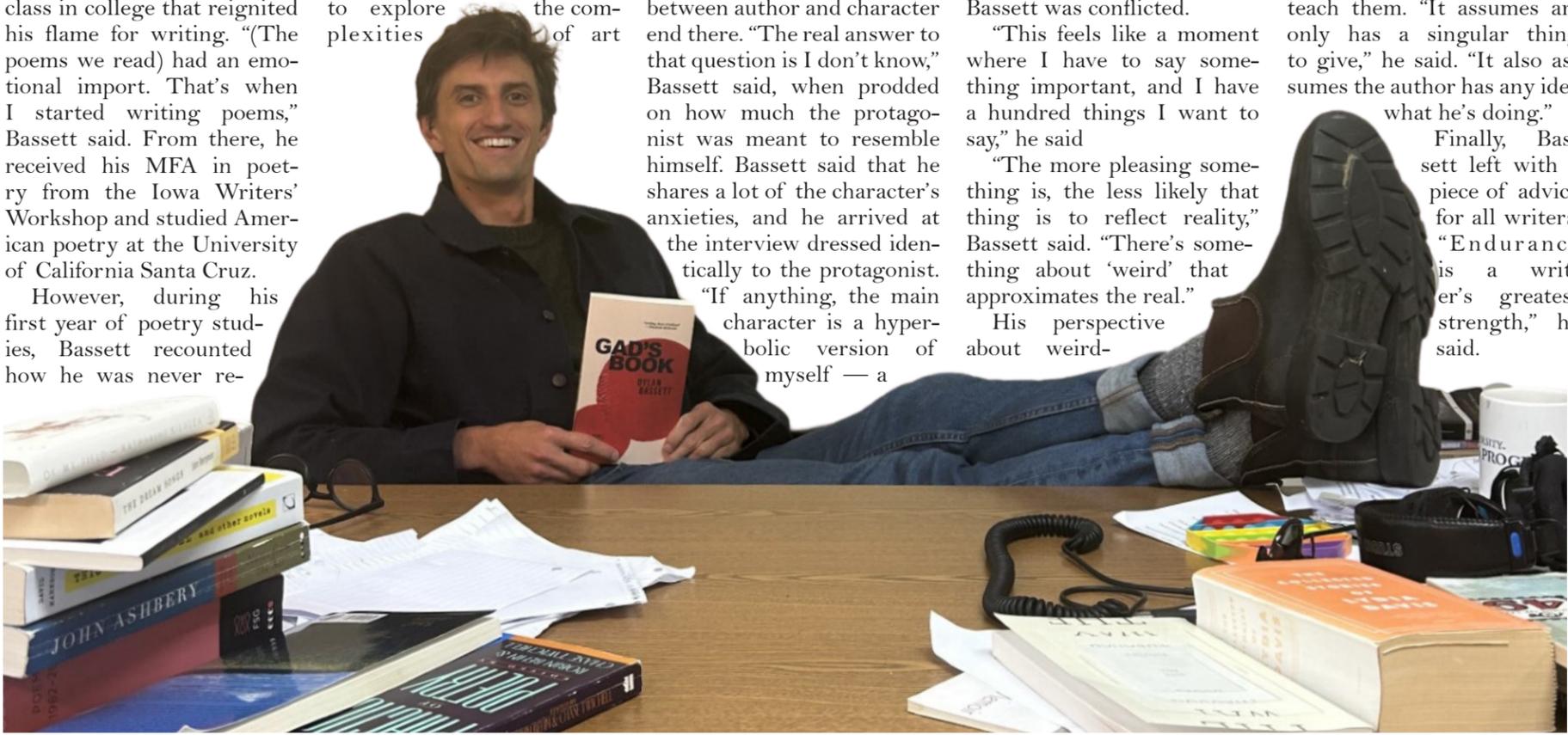
"You can imagine what that was like for an eight-year-old," Bassett said. "I left the theater feeling like I had no idea what just happened, but whatever it was it was really important. I wanted to recreate that feeling."

In the end, Bassett hopes that the weirdness rubs off on his readers.

"(I hope people get) an experience. Maybe a little jolt of disorientation. Maybe a little wake up call of some kind," he said. "I hope they're a little beguiled. A little unsettled."

Mostly, though, Bassett implored readers to stop thinking about what art can teach them. "It assumes art only has a singular thing to give," he said. "It also assumes the author has any idea what he's doing."

Finally, Bassett left with a piece of advice for all writers. "Endurance is a writer's greatest strength," he said.



NewsWire photo courtesy of Griffin Brammer

In this issue...

Campus, Page 3

Associated Press photographer shares his award-winning work at the Xavier Art Gallery.



Opinions, Page 6

Staff writer Christian Cullen urges Xavier to encourage greater community engagement.



Sports, Page 8

Musketeer Tip-Off gives a glimpse into this season's men's and women's basketball teams.



A&E, Page 10

Get ready for a silly spooky season with these low-budget horror films.



XU Sees Increase in Bias Incidents

Ivy Banks observes the increase primarily relates to students with disabilities

BY CLARE MCKINLEY
Staff Writer

Since students returned to campus this semester, there has been an increase in reported bias incidents, causing the Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) to look for new ways to foster a welcoming environment for Xavier students.

Vice President of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion Ivy Banks has seen an increased number of bias incidents reported this year, specifically highlighting that between Aug. 25 and Sept. 11, there were 10 reported bias incidents compared to last semester's total of eight.

Banks further recognized that many of these incidents involved hostility towards someone motivated by biases against race, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability. A noted increase has been observed with respect to the number of reports from students with disabilities, specifically regarding accommodations.

One of the ways in which the CDI is looking to improve diversity, equity and inclusion on campus is by launching a

campus climate survey sometime in late October. This survey will welcome students, faculty and staff to share their input on how they feel the climate is at Xavier.

There has not been a climate survey done at Xavier since 2016, so it will give the CDI a chance to reassess how accepted students feel on campus, according to Banks.

"This will give us an opportunity to truly assess the climate. One of the things that we look at when talking about climate is bias incidents, and these are incidents that impact whether or not someone feels like they belong here. We are trying to look at any impact to our inclusive environment and what we mean by our mission and values here at Xavier," Banks said.

Another resource available to students at Xavier are support groups. In conversation with the Student Government Association, Director of the CDI Sam Terry spoke to them about the resource.

Sophomore Philosophy, Politics and the Public major and Student Rights and Identity Committee Chair Emma Schwarz highlighted the role of support groups on campus.

"I think there's certain ex-

periences that obviously aren't relevant to everyone at Xavier. And I think that by having these specific support groups of people that you know and have those shared experiences with is something that can be very beneficial to creating solidarity on campus," Schwarz said.

Another way in which the CDI is trying to foster a more supportive environment is by eliminating some of the stress that comes with filing a bias incident report.

Banks has found that by offering a more personal response and proactively connecting students with other resources, she has been able to assist students more effectively.

In the past, students would end up having to submit concerns to multiple committees. However, Banks found that this meant it could be weeks before students ever heard a reply. Now, she receives the information firsthand and is able to contact students within 24 hours.

"They have an opportunity to meet with me or a member of our team. We'll walk them over to counseling services and support if they need," she said. "Bias incidents, depend-



Newswire photo courtesy of Joseph Nichols

Responding to the increase in reported bias incidents, the CDI highlights resources that support students through the process.

ing upon the incident and which part of your identity it impacts, can have devastating impacts on the person that's been involved. So we try to make sure that we're listening to that person and really responding to what they need," Banks said.

Overall, Banks believes that by eliminating the bystander effect and actively working to cultivate a welcoming environment, the Xavier community will be one step closer to cutting down on bias incidents.

"Whenever someone has been invited into our Xavier community, we want them to know that we've all invited them, so every student, every faculty, every staff member that's been invited here to our community knows that they are special to us," she emphasized.

"It can be really difficult when you have to deal with the external world, but here where we call home, we want everybody to make sure that they can find a place where they fit in," Banks said.

Prof. Andrew Zolides Takes It On as New Director

BY MICHAEL COLGLAZIER
Staff Writer

After former Take It On Initiative Director Mack Mariani stepped down to focus on his new role as the Interim Director of the Philosophy, Politics and the Public Honors Program (PPP), communications professor Andrew Zolides was selected to fill his absence in the organization.

Take It On is a civic engagement organization which formally began at Xavier in 2020 with the goal to engage with students in a way

that aims to get them excited about democracy through voting and having conversations about important issues.

Take It On tackles issues both on and off the ballot, intending for students to be armed with the capability to engage with one another about complex issues.

The club held a forum on Sept. 22 to welcome Zolides as their new director, who was selected to take over the role in part due to his involvement since the club's conception.

Students involved with Take It On expressed excitement for professor Zolides'

involvement, including senior PPP major and Take It On ambassador Ella Anich.

"I think he has some new ideas on how to make (Take It On) stronger and better," Anich said. "I know he wants to do a lot more collaborations with other student groups and he has a couple ideas on how we can get students more engaged."

Zolides has previously been involved with the Ignatian Campus Speech Initiative, which developed Xavier's principles of speech and communication.

Zolides, along with eight other faculty and staff members, created a document that laid out what Xavier means when they say that speech should be open and respectful.

Knowing the challenges involved with productive dialogue, Zolides hopes to be able to lead Take It On in a way that reflects Xavier's values of speech.

When speaking of his hopes for Take It On, Zolides expressed a desire for the organization to move away from the Republican-Democrat binary and instead focus on finding common ground.

"After *Roe v. Wade* was overturned, that was a very contentious, challenging time. They hosted a panel with people on both sides of the issue... One of the things I'm hoping to do going forward with Take It On is not just

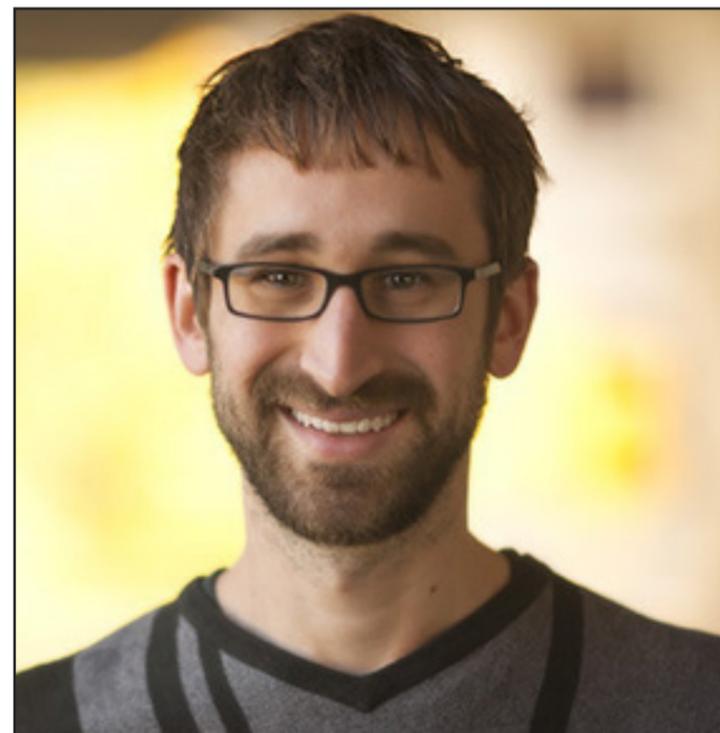


Photo courtesy of xavier.edu

have those sorts of, you know, side A versus side B (debates) because it's a little simplistic. Most issues are complicated, not everybody says they agree with everything this person says or everything that group says — it's more nuanced than that," Zolides said.

Additionally, Zolides hopes that he can persuade more students to get involved, even when politics seem like they do not belong to the youth.

"Our leaders are so much older on average than they've been... I think for a lot of (students), they're like, 'Why should I get involved? They don't understand me, they're

not thinking about my issues.' And that doesn't matter if you're a Democrat or Republican or independent or whatever," he said.

Zolides hopes to assert the idea that politics is not just for older people and that Take It On is not just for certain students.

"This isn't just for your political science, PPP, philosophy, pre-law students... We want to make sure people know this is meant for everyone. Voting isn't just for the people who are super into that particular candidate or this particular issue, it's meant for all of us," he concluded.

take it on
X

we seek out difference...

with the aim of listening, respecting, and being open to learning from each other.

we explore common ground...

when discussing controversial topics so that our students may learn to engage in difficult dialogue with others in a civil, productive manner

we promote civic engagement...

that balances political engagement, academics, and well-being

AP Photographer Presents Gallery

BY JUSTIN MALONE
World News Editor

Powerful emotions echoed throughout the Xavier Art Gallery last Friday as Ukrainian journalist and photographer Evgeniy Maloletka presented a gallery talk that focused on his award-winning work documenting the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Maloletka, an Associated Press photographer who has been recognized with the World Press Photo of the Year award and two Pulitzer Prizes, displayed his wartime photography in the "Mariupol: A Tale of Beauty and Destruction" exhibition, which was featured in the gallery.

Along with his work covering the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Maloletka previously reported on protests in Belarus, the COVID-19 pan-

demie and the Euromaidan Revolution.

The exhibit, which was created in partnership with the Ukrainian National Women's League, documented the realities of Mariupol, a city in southeastern Ukraine, during its extensive bombardment by Russian forces in February and March 2022.

During that period, he was one of the few international journalists covering these events from the frontlines. The gallery also highlighted the works of fellow photographers Mytyslav Chernov and Myroslav Kobylanskyi.

In his talk, Maloletka provided insight into the truth behind Russian claims surrounding the conflict and humanized the suffering of Mariupol's residents through his own experiences in Ukraine and the photos he took during that time. Many of these



Newswire photo courtesy of Justin Malone

photos captured moments of bravery, pain and social connection amid the devastation caused by the invasion.

Maloletka explained that he worked with a group of Associated Press photographers to document the realities of the war and chose to go to Mariupol because it was a strategic point for the Russians that had a seaport and was on a route towards Crimea. He noted that his group arrived in the city just one hour before its siege and stayed for 20 days to photograph the horrors of the war.

Maloletka discussed his tormenting personal memories of hearing explosions of bombs, witnessing the surgery operations of first responders and civilians injured from debris and gunfire, photographing mass grave sites in forests and recording videos of war crimes committed by tanks marked with the "Z" symbol and Russian troops.

Maloletka also discussed his experiences photographing the flooding from the destruction of the Kakhovka Dam, where he saw the islands and homes along the Dnieper River flood. He said that it was hard for him to witness these "horrific images" because they would stay with him throughout the rest of his life, but knew he needed to document the reality of the situation.

These memories were accompanied with powerful visual aids from his photographs and recorded videos, including an award-winning photo showing emergency workers carrying a pregnant woman through the shattered grounds of a maternity hospital after a Russian attack on the building and a recording of a bomb striking an apartment building that killed two older individuals.

Maloletka further described the impact of his pho-

tos by mentioning that his work was attacked by Russian propagandists, who targeted him for his work. Despite the constant threats, he understood that it provided valuable information to Western media outlets and informed the world about the war.

Throughout his talk, Maloletka emphasized the importance of his work showing the everyday happenings of war and how everyday civilians and military are killed from military conflict.

After the talk, students and faculty asked Maloletka questions about the emotional impacts of the conflict on him, the effects of his photography in Russia and how people can become more aware of the events of the conflict.

"This event's just incredibly powerful. It's an incredible opportunity that someone like him would come to our campus," senior graphic design major Alex Fisher said.



Newswire photo courtesy of Justin Malone

Meet the Candidates: SGA Presidential Election

BY JACKSON HARE
Campus News Editor

Students running for the Student Government Association's (SGA) student body president and vice president officially launched their campaigns ahead of the Oct. 25 election last Sunday.

Nick Jebson and Noelle Delumpa:

"Our platform, N'spiring More — N for Nick & Noelle — is built on five key goals: more student-preferred development, more transparency, more game-day enjoyment, more equitable funding and more effective nightlife protocols. Each are designed to enhance Xavier's campus and the student experience," Jebson said.

Kayla Ross and Ethan Nichols:

"Our biggest focuses are addressing food insecurity along with sustainability and improving parking for all students... We also want to represent minority students more accurately to the administration. Additionally, we want to address access to mental and chronic health resources for students as the wait times are through the roof for mental health resources and counseling right now," Ross said.

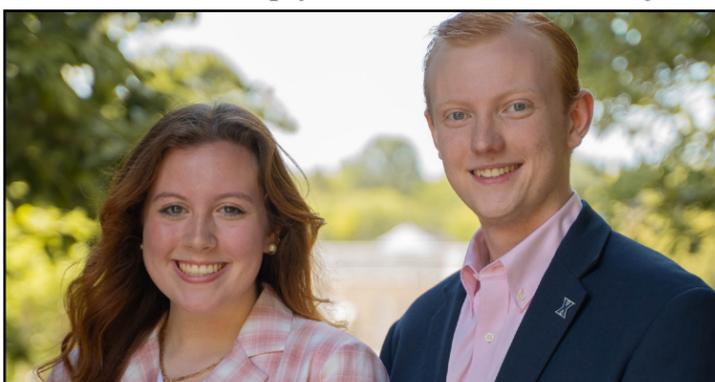
Students will receive an email on Oct. 25 in order to vote.



Newswire photo courtesy of Nick Jebson

Presidential candidate Nick Jebson is a junior finance and business analytics major.

Vice presidential candidate Noelle Delumpa is a sophomore Philosophy, Politics and the Public major.



Newswire photo courtesy of Kayla Ross

Presidential candidate Kayla Ross is a junior health services administration major. Ross is also the Back Page Editor for *Newswire*.

Vice presidential candidate Ethan Nichols is a junior Philosophy, Politics and the Public and English double major.

October 16, 2023 Student Government Association Meeting Recap

BY JUSTICE DICKEY

- Associate communications professor and the new director of Take It On Andrew Zolides outlined his goals for the initiative, including facilitating collaborations with other student organizations and getting more plugged into the Cincinnati community.
- Confusion arose regarding the restructuring of Student Activities Council (SAC), but it was confirmed that they will focus on investment into larger programs that contribute to making campus culture more vibrant.
- The Student Government Association (SGA) passed a motion to approve the allocation of \$7,500 towards new pickleball lines on the multisport courts in the HUB. New rackets and nets will be purchased by Recreational Sports.
- Senator Emma Schwarz is working with the Mail Center to cover the cost of stamps for students looking to mail absentee ballots.
- X-treme fans is working to host week-of events leading up to the student campout the night before the Crosstown Shootout.

Israel-Hamas Conflict Escalates Further

BY DOMINIC DEGRINNEY
Newswire Intern

The fighting between Israel and Hamas, which launched an unprecedented surprise attack on Oct. 7, is the latest in nearly seven decades of conflict between Israelites and Palestinians that has further destabilized regional security in the Middle East.

The conflict, which has been criticized by human rights groups for breaking humanitarian law, began after Hamas militants stormed from the blockaded Gaza Strip into Israeli towns, killing dozens and abducting others in a surprise attack on civilians.

In retaliation, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu mobilized 360,000 army

soldiers and bombed the Gaza Strip with more than 6,000 munitions, while Israel has imposed a total blockade of the strip, denying it food and other essential resources. The death toll so far from the conflict has risen to at least 1,400 people in Israel and 2,700 people in Gaza.

Hamas formed in 1987 after the First Intifada, which was a series of Palestinian protests and violent riots following the killing of four Palestinians by an Israeli vehicle. The group's roots are in the Palestinian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood and remains supported by other groups inside the Gaza Strip.

The conflict between Israel and Hamas has existed for

decades as tensions between these groups continually escalate from longstanding territorial disputes.

The conflict has challenged Israeli demands for security and focused their efforts on the elimination of Hamas infrastructure in the region. Hamas officials cited longstanding tensions, including a conflict over the storming of the Al-Aqsa mosque by Israeli police in 2021 and expansions of Jewish settlements on lands Palestinians claimed for a potential future state.

Now, Israel has planned a possible invasion of the Gaza Strip in order to permanently oust Hamas, a move which may result in the death of many more Palestinian civilians. Israel is also considering a possible attack on the northern border from Lebanon, where another religious fundamentalist group called Hezbollah has threatened to invade and has fired missiles at Israeli bases.

"Hamas exploited the advantage of surprise with astonishing success. Its advantage now is the ability to scatter and hide within the protective shield of Gaza's civilian population," Bruce Hoffman, an international politics expert with the Council on Foreign Relations, said.

"Also, as an authoritarian regime that has not held elections in Gaza for 15 years, it can coerce the population into



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

cooperation and does not have to worry about public opinion," he said.

Recently, Israel has continued to bombard the Gaza Strip, and the area's Interior Ministry stated that an Israeli airstrike killed five individuals and wounded at least 15 others in the southern city of Rafah. An attack yesterday on a Gaza City hospital killed hundreds. Hamas has also received condemnation for their actions, including the killing of at least 260 civilians for a strike on the Tribe of Nova music festival.

A United Nations Commission of Inquiry said it has been "collecting and preserving evidence of war crimes committed by all sides" since the violence started.

Israel has stated that they had no knowledge of the attack, while Hamas claimed to

have successfully fooled the Israeli Defense Forces into believing it did not want a confrontation. There have also been intensifying diplomatic efforts from outside groups who are pressuring Middle Eastern governments like Egypt to open humanitarian corridors for civilians to flee to.

President Joe Biden is making a wartime visit to Israel to show his support for the nation. He also plans to meet with the leaders of Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinian Authority government in Jordan during the trip.

"Across the world, everyone regardless of faith wishes that the situation de-escalate, though Hamas as an unelected group of terror with de-facto control over Gaza seems bent on seeing Israel attempt an invasion," Hoffman said.



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

Israeli forces have continued to bombard areas around the Gaza Strip as the conflict between the groups enters its 12th day.

NASA Unveils Scientific Discoveries from Asteroid

The agency announced that the Bennu asteroid sample contained carbon and water

BY LEAH BARNARD
Guest Writer

Last Wednesday, NASA announced the initial ground-breaking scientific findings from their sample of the asteroid Bennu, which was brought back to Earth in September.

Bennu, a carbonaceous asteroid, was discovered in 1999 by the Lincoln Near-Earth Asteroid Research project. Due to its proximity to Earth and intriguing characteristics, NASA began the OSIRIS-REx mission in 2011 to explore the asteroid. Lockheed Martin Space, an aerospace company based in Littleton, Colo., was primarily responsible for constructing the spacecraft.

On Sept. 16, 2016, NASA launched OSIRIS-REx with

the objective of gathering material from this celestial body. The spacecraft reached Bennu in the latter half of 2018.

OSIRIS-REx was outfitted with specific features and functions tailored for the precise sample collection. The spacecraft's Touch-And-Go Sample Acquisition Mechanism featured a robotic arm and collection head designed to gather materials from Bennu's surface. Prior to collection, extensive mapping and planning was executed by OSIRIS-REx to ensure optimal results.

Following a successful collection, OSIRIS-REx stowed the sample in a sample return capsule located within the asteroid's surface, protecting it on its journey back

to Earth. On May 10, 2021, OSIRIS-REx bid farewell to Bennu and began its return. It reached Earth on Sept. 24, becoming the first United States spacecraft to return asteroid samples to Earth successfully.

"The reason that Earth is the habitable world we have, with oceans, lakes, rivers and rain, is because (of) these clay minerals, like the ones we're seeing from Bennu," planetary scientist Dante Lauretta of the University of Arizona in Tucson said.

"As we peer into the ancient secrets preserved within the dust and rocks of asteroid Bennu, we are unlocking a time capsule that offers us profound insights into the origins of our solar system," he stated.

The sample collected from Bennu contained water-bearing clay minerals and carbon-rich compounds. The presence of water-bearing clay minerals provides a glimpse into the conditions of the early solar system.

Their presence on Bennu suggests they may have been present in a solar nebula from which the Sun and Earth formed. Lauretta noted that the samples are of particular interest because the clay min-



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

Sample material collected from the Bennu asteroid contained elements which suggested that asteroids provided components of life to Earth.

erals from Bennu could have played a prominent role in Earth's habitability.

The carbon-rich compounds were notably compelling. Carbon, a fundamental element for life, suggests that the raw ingredients for life may have been widespread in our stellar surroundings.

The analysis of the Bennu samples holds scientific implications across multiple disciplines. Shedding light on the early solar system's formation offers insights into the materials and conditions that contributed to the birth of the

sun, planets and asteroids. Beyond Earth, these findings also add to scientific understandings of cosmic evolution, helping scientists trace the materials and processes that have shaped the solar system and the broader universe over eons.

"These discoveries, made possible through years of dedicated collaboration and cutting-edge science, propel us on a journey to understand not only our celestial neighborhood but also the potential for life's beginnings," Lauretta said.

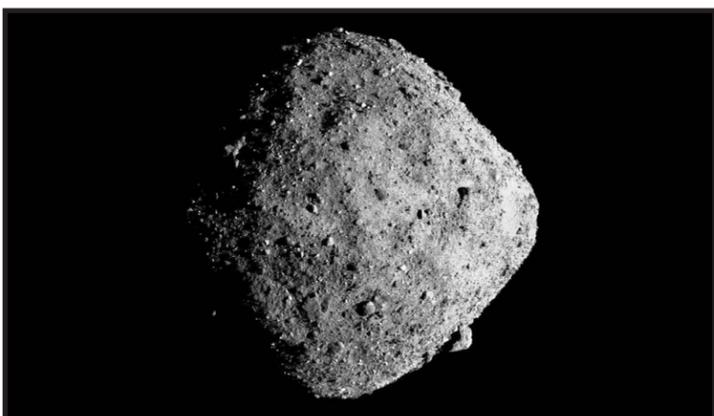


Photo courtesy of flickr.com

Speaker of the House Vote Continues

By JACK PLUTH AND JUSTIN MALONE
Staff Writer and World News Editor

Ohio Representative Jim Jordan delayed a second vote on his possible ascension to become the next Speaker of the House last night after the removal of Kevin McCarthy from the position.

McCarthy's removal marks the first time in American history that the position has been vacated. McCarthy's term as Speaker of the House had not yet reached its one-year mark.

After McCarthy vacated the Speaker role, Representative Patrick McHenry was designated with the speaker pro tempore role and is presiding over the House with limited powers. Because of this development, major bills focusing on major issues like the conflict in Israel and the looming government shutdown in November have been stalled.

A resolution proposed by Representative Mike Kelly last Monday would temporarily expand McHenry's powers until Nov. 17 or until a new Speaker is elected. If this resolution passes, the House could hold votes necessary to fund the government beyond the shutdown date and pass legislation.

After several deliberations, including Representative Steve Scalise bowing out



Kevin McCarthy, a Republican representative from California, was removed from his position as Speaker of the House in an unprecedented "motion to vacate" vote, initiated by Representative Matt Gaetz.

from consideration for Speaker in face of opposition from hard-right conservatives, the GOP nominated Jordan for the role last Friday.

Jordan, who serves as chairman of the Judiciary Committee and founded the Freedom Caucus, received the nomination after garnering 124 votes in a secret party ballot, far short of the 217 votes he likely needs to win the speakership.

Yesterday, Jordan failed to win enough votes to be elected as Speaker as the House voted 200 to 232 to reject the nomination with 20 Repub-

licans voting against Jordan. The House delayed a second vote on Jordan until 11 a.m. today, further demonstrating divisions in the chamber.

Republican holdouts mainly consisted of legislative members who objected to Jordan's record and fear that Jordan could alienate voters in certain districts. A large share of those who voted against Jordan came from members of the Appropriations and Armed Service Committees, which help direct legislation and governmental tasks in the House.

The removal of McCarthy

stemmed from the Republicans' razor-thin majority in the House, which was created by the 2022 midterm election results. This majority allowed the Republicans to appoint McCarthy as Speaker of the House, albeit after 15 attempts to unite his party and from support by the Freedom Caucus.

McCarthy's appointment required deliberation between him and a group of further-right Republicans under the banner of the "Freedom Caucus," led by Florida representative Matt Gaetz.

Gaetz launched his major

offensive efforts to boot McCarthy from his position on Oct. 2 and did so through a provision made by McCarthy in January in which only one representative was needed to bring up a "motion to vacate" vote. No Democratic representatives voted to retain McCarthy as the speaker.

Citing a failure of the current speaker to "fulfill his promises," Gaetz's efforts, along with a group of seven other House Republicans, joined with the Democrats to remove McCarthy as speaker.

"Speaker McCarthy made an agreement with House conservatives in January, and since then he's been in brazen, repeated material breach of that agreement," Gaetz said. "This agreement (to avoid a government shutdown) that he made with Democrats to really blow past a lot of the spending guardrails we set up is a last straw," Gaetz continued.

McCarthy was stripped of his position as Speaker of the House of Representatives in a 216-210 vote.

"I may have lost this vote today, but as I walk out of this chamber I feel fortunate to have served," McCarthy said at a press conference.

Speculation has arisen from far-right conservatives that McCarthy's replacement would have to have bipartisan support if they intend on keeping their position.



Guinness World Records, paddling pumpkins, deciphering ancient scrolls & expensive speeding tickets

By GAVIN STEELE
Staff Writer

Missourian Steve Kueny paddled a hollowed-out pumpkin 38.4 miles down the Missouri River. He spent 11 hours paddling the 1,208 lb pumpkin from Kansas City to Napoleon, Mo. (Oct. 11).

New Zealander Mike Heard bungee jumped 941 times in a day to reclaim his record for the most bungee jumps in a day. Heard originally set the record with 430 jumps in 2017, but this record was broken after Frenchman François-Marie Dibon completed 765 jumps in 2022 (Oct. 12).

Saadiyat Island Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates broke a Guinness World Record by displaying 1,100 messages in bottles at the same time. Officials on the island encouraged visitors to write messages about the concept of love or their enjoyment of the island, which were then arranged to say "I (heart) Saadiyat Island" (Oct. 12).



Photos courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

21-year-old Luke Farritor discovered the first complete word in an unopened scroll written 2,000 years ago, which was housed in an ancient Herculaneum library that was buried from the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D. Farritor was competing in the Vesuvius Challenge, in which competitors used 3D CT-scans to find information from the carbonized scroll, where he discovered the word "porphyras," or purple. Farritor was awarded \$40,000 for his discovery (Oct. 12).

National nonprofit organization Move for Hunger broke the Guinness World Record for most cereal boxes toppled in a domino fashion with 12,952 in Detroit, Mich. All of the cereal, which was set off in a chain reaction by Frosted Flakes mascot Tony the Tiger, will be donated to local food banks (Oct. 13).

Georgian Connor Cato received a shocking \$1.4 million speeding ticket for going 90 mph on a 55 mph road in Savannah. However, Cato later discovered that the fine was a placeholder until he appears in court, as speeding fines in Georgia cannot exceed \$1,000 unless there are additional state mandated fees (Oct. 15).



Photos courtesy of pexels.com

Anti-Oppression Isn't Pro-Terrorism

Are you pro-Palestine or pro-Israel?

That question has been leveled at every person in discussion, casual conversation, X feeds and TikTok comments recently, and for good reason.

It's an important question, and it's an important stance. I stand with oppressed people who have the right to fight back against their oppressors and defend their right to self-governance. There is a heavy history of violence against Palestinians, inflicted by a world that has, over and over again, maintained its belief that Palestine has no room to exist — not in favor of Jewish people or British colonizers or American military forces.

However, being pro-Palestine does not make one pro-Hamas, pro-terrorism or pro-violence-against-which-ever-innocent-civilian-is-unlucky-enough-to-be-in-the-way. Anti-oppression stances do not a terrorist make.

Why, suddenly, is the horrible and unjustifiable attack of Hamas on innocent Israeli citizens the end-all-be-all deciding factor for whether

we support an oppressed people's right to no longer be oppressed or support a systematic erasure of an entire ethnic identity?

How can we be expected to stand by and accept this — all because of the actions of a singular organization that is not the government of Gaza? Gaza is not a country. It is subject to the complete control of Israel; it has no government and no military. Who can leave, who can enter, where they can live, what they can eat or drink, who can help them — it's all up to Israel. Since its creation, Israel has further shrunk and suffocated the land wherein they forced Palestinians to relocate.

In 2009, Avigdor Lieberman ran for the legislature in Israel with a platform promising to take citizenship away from Palestinians who refused to swear loyalty to the Israeli state. He later became the foreign and defense minister.

We pretend these views and this treatment are okay all for the sake of the war on terror. I think Palestinians can tell you something about terror, if only you would listen. There

is no way to justify or rationalize the actions of Hamas against innocent Israeli citizens. That kind of violence against women and children, or against anyone innocent, can't be justified. But that isn't grounds to turn a blind eye to Israel bombing Gaza right now. With a military budget funded by the U.S. at the sum of \$3 billion a year, they are denying food and water to Palestinians and keeping humanitarian aid from entering the region.

For almost 80 years, Israel has subjected Palestinians to brutal and controlling rule most often compared to an "open-air prison." But only now, after Jewish lives are taken, you start paying attention?

It has come to a point where the people of Palestine are making the choice to stay in their land while bombs funded by the U.S. rain down on them.

The choice is freedom or death — which isn't really a choice at all.

Palestine is their home. Why are you asking them to leave? Why can't you recognize that the people who are

starving, cut off from clean water and internet and humanitarian aid, are victims?

Israel is using Hamas as an excuse to finish what they started in 1948 — the complete expulsion of Palestinians from Palestine — through forceful exit or through death.

The only way to end this is liberation. According to the New York Times, "Since 1997, the United States has vetoed more than a dozen United Nations Security Council resolutions criticizing Israel for its actions in the West Bank and Gaza."

We have to acknowledge our role in this. We can help Israelis recover from this horrible attack that tore families apart, that victimized innocent people who played no role in what is happening in Gaza.

We can also refuse to continue to support a government and military hell-bent on the ethnic cleansing of an entire population.

Two truths can coexist. Jewish people — the people of Israel specifically — in every world and argument and perspective did not deserve

the violence brought against them this month. They deserve safety and sanctuary as a people attacked from every side throughout history.

Palestinians do not deserve the violence wrought against them in the aftermath of the Hamas attack or the violence they've experienced in the past 75 years. They deserve safety and sanctuary as a people within their homeland.

I live in a world where both these things are true. Where I can stand against terrorism brought against innocent people and against oppression forced on innocent people.

What world do you live in?



Grace Hamilton is the Opinions & Editorials editor for *NewsWire*. She is a senior political science major from Akron, OH.

Xavier's Bubble Isn't Big Enough

Once a semester, Xavier undertakes a day of service known as Community Action Day (CAD). It's a moment for Xavier students to get off campus and do some positive action in the many neighborhoods of Cincinnati. This semester's CAD was last Saturday. I walked up excited to do some service. However, I was struck by the lack of Xavier students there.

I would estimate that there were around 50-60 participants there, which is not a horrible number. However, in a school with thousands of undergraduate students, it's an underwhelming percentage. This article is not meant to be a negative commentary about my experience with CAD, but rather about Xavier's continued struggles with its separation from the greater Norwood and Cincinnati communities.

From the start of my first year on campus, I have heard

of the supposed "Xavier Bubble." Essentially, Xavier is in Norwood, but most Xavier students have little to no connection with Norwood itself. Physically, our campus is separate from the rest of the area; the entrances into campus are two long roads into the heart of it all. Xavier students regard the surrounding community with suspicion and derision. This is not a natural occurrence, but instead is the result of a lack of emphasis placed on the need for engagement with the people who live around us.

The answer is not for Xavier to require service or even incentivize it. Instead, Xavier should focus on drawing more attention to the service-related events and organizations on campus. In the days leading up to CAD, I only saw the CFJ Instagram doing outreach about the event. The CFJ has a great Instagram page, which you should follow @xu_CFJ.

However, Xavier University has a much greater reach than the CFJ Instagram does, so it would not have been much effort to boost what the CFJ was posting. It is a smaller example of a wider issue.

Xavier has been lacking in their outward efforts to engage their students in service and solidarity on a wider level with the surrounding neighborhoods and Cincinnati as a whole.

Xavier has recently been leaning into the Jesuit values more and more; I would say this is a generally good thing. However, you cannot pick and choose. We cannot have people preaching magis and cura personalis, but leave service rooted in justice and love behind. It seems hypocritical and reinforces the "Xavier Bubble." Magis and cura personalis are exceptional values, but their direction appears to be more inwardly-focused, while service rooted in justice

and love is outwardly focused. By avoiding service rooted in justice and love, Xavier reinforces the invisible campus walls that mark the bubble we live in. By avoiding this value, it becomes easier for students to avoid the realities of the greater community and avoid taking action to help.

There is also a worthy conversation about Xavier's effect on the community in a physical sense. Xavier has been slowly expanding, and with the More Xavier campaign, one can assume that this expansion will continue. Xavier is going to have to grapple with the consequences of this expansion and its effects on Norwood. Xavier will be making conscious financial decisions that may have negative effects on the area. Without a conscious investment in improving life off campus, Xavier's improvement of life on campus would only feel half-hearted. You cannot strive to create a

vibrant culture of love and compassion and set limits on the space that culture can occupy.

In total, I am very worried about Xavier's conscious messaging combined with the potential effect its inevitable expansion may have on the Norwood community. I hope to see Xavier invest and encourage its students to be engaged off campus as they do for on campus engagement. Otherwise, the Jesuit messaging will be a shield for the expansion and actions of our university, rather than the solid rock upon which we build.



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

THE STAFF

Editor-in-Chief
Chloe Salvesson

Print Managing Editor
Katie Sanchez

Multimedia Managing Editor
Marty Dubecky

Campus News Editor
Jackson Hare

World News Editor
Justin Malone

Opinions & Editorials Editor
Grace Hamilton

Sports Editor
Ben Dickison

Arts & Entertainment Editor
Griffin Brammer

Back Page Editor
Kayla Ross

Head Copy Editor
Tess Dankoski

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

Staff Writers
Christian Cullen, Kyra Hudson, Clare McKinley, Justice Dickey, Briana Dunn, Jack Pluth, Gavin Steele, Michael Colglazier, José María Gámez-Lamadrid

Education & Enrichment Coordinator
Jesse Dolojan

Interns
Hannah Kremer, Will Coffman, Dylan Paulson, Dominic DeGrinney, Audrey Elwood

Advisor
John Stowell

Mission Statement

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

Advertising

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

For Your Information

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

Respect Requires Real Understanding

Reading the news about Israel and Palestine over the last week and seeing the different reactions of Americans across the country has made me reflect on something: how much I appreciate living in a country where speech and assembly are protected in the country's constitution. Even citizens with no care for civics or constitutional law know the First Amendment. The irony is that while it might be our most well-known amendment, it is also the one I think we take for granted.

The history of Israel and Palestine is one of fierce disagreement and distrust. But for all the decades of negativity, one must note the various attempts at peace that were made. There were the 1993 Oslo I Accords, followed with 1995's Oslo II Accords, both set on finding peace in the Middle East. Yet, these peace plans failed, and now in 2023 we are seeing a major escalation in the conflict. In response to this escalation, I have heard people say, "Why even attempt peace?" Another question I hear is, "Why do we care what happens there?"

I think these are fair questions to ask and ones that deserve answers.

The answer to the first question is because true peace earned with conviction will last. The peace we saw was attempted with little resolve. Yes, the Oslo Accords were created with care. But once made, they were allowed to be forgotten, and any process pushing for peace between the countries after was nothing more than endeavors with too little strength to succeed. Why should peace be attempted? Because true peace does not erode easily: Look at the bonds of America and Japan after Pearl Harbor and the atomic bombs, along with other horrors of the Pacific Theater during the Second World War. You will see two countries that were once vicious enemies now standing shoulder-to-shoulder as partners in the 21st century. Peace can work.

The answer to the second question is one I want readers to especially focus on. Israel and Palestine are a lesson in what happens when division is allowed to run rampant.

Division festers, demoralizes and then destroys. Israel and Palestine are not the only examples of this either. History repeats itself. You just need to look for the right pattern.

There were the Yugoslav Wars during the 1990s that were full of horrific acts of genocide and destructive violence as the rest of Europe looked on in horror. At the same time, 1994 had the Rwandan Genocide, where division between the Tutsi and Hutu ethnic groups led to one of the worst atrocities in modern history. There were the Troubles in Northern Ireland and the divide between Serbia and Austria-Hungary that culminated in the assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, helping spark WWI.

So why does this matter to us? Because America is growing increasingly politically divided. It's seen in our government, where members of both sides refuse to even consider working across the aisle. It's hurting the ability of the U.S. to govern, leaving us with situations where we find ourselves on the verge of gov-

ernment shutdowns or looking at a potential economic crisis due to the debt ceiling. But this division is starting to make its way into homes, into offices, into places of worship and restaurants.

What's happening in Israel and Palestine should matter to us because it showcases exactly what we must strive to avoid. If we treat our neighbors as inconveniences, that's all they will become. You don't see their humanity or their value, you only see something you have grown to hate, and it's in that thinking that peace fails, and violence wins. Abraham Lincoln said, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." That quote obviously served as a warning to citizens in his time, but like so many of his words, they ring true today, and we would do well to listen.

We need to return to talking to each other again with a goal of finding the truth without insulting the other side. Disagreement is not bad — indeed it should be encouraged. The framers of the Constitution knew this: Why else would so many

rights critical to having debates be protected?

We should challenge each other's views. We should celebrate arguments. We should vigorously participate in discussion. But at the end of the day, the disagreement in opinion or ideology should not divide nor should it separate our society into us versus them. That is dangerous. That is what we must avoid. Respect and understanding must win the day, no matter what the argument and its outcome is. So, let's help set our nation on a path of respect once again and become an example to the rest of the world about the power unity has and the hope it can bring.



Will Coffman is an intern for *NewsWire*. He is a first-year Philosophy, Politics and the Public major from Indianapolis.

The Hubris Behind Hunting the Humanities

Last week, Miami University of Ohio announced that the university is considering cutting or consolidating 18 of its major programs in the humanities in attempt to cut back on costs and relieve its budget deficit. Miami is just one of many universities in recent years who have cut humanities programs, following a trend of decreasing enrollment in programs like English, foreign languages and theology.

This pattern of cutting humanities programs when budgets get tight is a devastating trend that signals a serious threat to higher education, and I sincerely hope Xavier is not taking notes from our neighbor in Oxford.

Miami is far from the only university who has made this decision recently. Just a few weeks ago, West Virginia University's Board of Governors voted to eliminate 32 majors and let go 7% of its faculty in those departments. Across the region and nationwide, humanities courses are the first to go as universities look for extra space in their budgets.

On one hand, it follows that a university would cut

majors with decreased enrollment. To a degree, it is more indicative of a nationwide decline in humanities majors that is driving these cuts more than universities are. But universities cannot blame fewer English majors on students — they are as responsible as students, if not more, for emphasizing the value of humanities degrees.

Fewer than 10% of college graduates graduated with a humanities degree in 2020 (depending on what fields you consider part of the humanities), marking a 25% decline between 2012 and 2020, according to federal data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System. This sharp downward trend can be seen to have been bolstered by the Great Recession and the limited postgraduate employment opportunities that followed. This has led to a disheartening cultural devaluing of humanities degrees. We've been conditioned to only value the clear, "viable" career paths as ways to reach economic sustainability in an unstable job market. However, what is "viable" is not quite so simple.

As a humanities major myself, I may be biased, but I see an incredible amount of value in humanities programs. I can't count the number of people who have asked what I could possibly do with my history degree, or been surprised when I told them all the possible careers I'm already exploring due to my politics degree. Shockingly, humanities majors do find jobs after graduation.

Just because there's no job title called "Classical Studies" doesn't mean the skills a classics major learns in their studies aren't applicable. It's shortsighted to think that every major must have a clear career path. An enormous amount of jobs don't follow from a clear course of study and instead attract a wide variety of degree-earners based on skill rather than the words on a diploma. There's no major called Sales Executive or Researcher or CEO, but people in those jobs came from somewhere. They need skills like critical thinking, interpersonal communication and clear writing — all skills a humanities degree helps you develop.

Universities alone cannot change the culture surround-

ing humanities degrees or single-handedly increase enrollment in humanities programs, but they do have a responsibility to vehemently reject the devaluation of the humanities. Liberal arts universities like Xavier in particular have a duty to reorient the narrative and help the humanities survive. As a Jesuit institution, Xavier's very mission as "rooted in the liberal arts tradition" and committed to "educating the whole person" requires that they continue to choose to rise above the decisions of other universities and support our humanities. There is no *cura personalis* without a strong core curriculum that includes English and history as well as science and math. The strong writers, thinkers, and communicators that Xavier has produced enrich the Cincinnati region and beyond.

Students at liberal arts universities who don't major in the humanities still benefit immensely from these programs — a doctor or accountant who can't write effectively because they only took biology or business classes is going to struggle without the critical work-

place skills that the humanities foster. The nationwide trend of cutting humanities programs is going to produce a workforce that cannot communicate well, has a less diverse worldview and is less empathetic — that harms all of us.

Business and nursing might make universities more money, but like it or not, the world needs us humanities majors. In the midst of these cuts, Xavier has the opportunity to be a countercultural leader in thriving humanities programs. I sincerely hope that Xavier's long and strong roots in the liberal arts tradition help it weather the storm raining down on the humanities.



Katie Sanchez is the Print Managing Editor for *NewsWire*. She is a junior Philosophy, Politics, and the Public and history double major from St. Louis.



Tip-Off the Old Block for 2023-24 Hoops

BY BEN DICKISON
Sports Editor

Last Friday night, as leaves left branches for the ground and temperatures dipped into the forties, a new season dawned in Norwood: 2023-2024 Xavier Musketeers basketball. The men's and women's teams were hailed by over 3,000 Musketeer faithful Cintas Center for the 2023 Musketeer Tip-Off presented by Heartland Bank, known previously as Musketeer Madness.

"We know this event is taking place at a different time than many of us are used to," said Sedler Family Head Men's Basketball Coach Sean Miller. "There's a reason for that... we're playing two scrimmages this year."

It appears the event was pushed to take place a week before its previously annual slot on the Friday night of Xavier's Family Weekend to accommodate for an extra closed-to-the-public contest to help the overhauled men's roster more adequately prepare for an ominous schedule.

The Musketeers are slated for battles against five of the top 10 teams and up to eight of the top 25 teams in this season's Associated Press poll, which was released last Monday.

The event commenced with introductions of the women in silver and navy, newly under the guidance of former Iona coach Billie Chambers. Each member of the women's roster, which contains eight new faces, was met with rousing applause as they ventured onto Kohlepp Family Court via a stage connecting the hardwood to the locker room. Chambers and her staff made their entrance with a coordinated dance, followed by an address to the crowd. Chambers emphasized the program's commitment to rebuilding as "quickly and as sustainably as possible."

Graduate forward Loren Christie, redshirt freshman guard Azinique Mayo, graduate guard Taylor Smith, and junior guard Kaysia Woos competed in a three point shootout. Mayo, won the contest, scorching the net 13 times from beyond the arc.

Preceded by a performance from the Xavier Dance Team, the men's team conducted player introductions in a congruent manner to the women's team. European newcomers Lazar Djokovic, Saša Ciana, and Gytis Nemeikša donned their native flags: Serbia, Slovenia and Lithuania, respectively. Graduate transfer and expected starter Quincy Olivari lightened the



Photo courtesy of Miles Kaminski/ Xavier Athletic Communications

Freshman forward Dailyn Swain (wearing 3 in white, above) shot an impressive five-for-six from the field and threw down a tomahawk dunk that ignited Cintas Center with applause.

mood by using team photographer Isaac Fiely's camera and taking photos and videos of the tunnel formed by cheerleaders and dancers.

Prior to tipping off an intrasquad scrimmage, Coach Miller assigned one side of Cintas Center to root for the blue side and the opposite side to be allegiant to the team in white.

Xavier's two returners, sophomore guards Kam Craft and Desmond Claude impressed in the 2023-24 team's premiere; Craft connected on half of his eight attempts from beyond-the-arc and poured in 17 points to lead all scorers, besting Claude, who

went without a blemish in four free throw attempts, by only one bucket.

Freshman small forward Dailyn Swain displayed a Swiss Army Knife skillset, providing a highlight reel tomahawk slam in the second of two 16-minute halves, and displaying a high level of defensive versatility.

Olivari and Western Kentucky transfer guard Dayvion McKnight, who is embarking on his senior season, displayed ability to dice up a defense using McKnight's quick first step to penetrate the lane, and Olivari's ability to stretch a defense with his outside shooting prowess.

Djokovic exhibited laser focus in the second half, pouring in all 13 of his points after the break. Nemeikša contributed 11 points for Xavier Blue.

Fellow post presence and newcomer Kachi Nzeh, who hails from Upper Darby, Penn., caught a game high nine rebounds. Charlotte native and freshman floor general Trey Green, played string music throughout the first half, collecting a team-high 16 points and game-high nine assists, generating palpable buzz as he led Xavier Blue to a 74-60 victory in the nightcap, that included a 21-7 run to end the first half.

A Seahawk's Thoughts on the "Jungle"

BY AUDREY ELWOOD
Newsire Intern

Walking down West Freedom Way the home of the Bengals tailgate scene prior to each home game, you could feel the energy pumping through the streets of Downtown. As a proud fan of the Seattle Seahawks, I was nervous to be in such a lively crowd of the opposing team, but once I got to Paycor Stadium, also known as "The Jungle," all of those worries were put to rest.

This was my first football tailgate, and while I am no expert, I can tell you the Bengals have a very lively one. There was live music from a DJ, and a ton of great food options, including brats, hamburgers and the one-of-a-kind sweet tang of Cincinnati chili. Fans also were indulging in liquid courage in the form of the "Bengals Bomb" drink, made up of equal parts Red Bull, Jagermeister and Sunkist. Bengals fans came up to us and showed us Cincinnati hospitality in only the fashion they could. Even if you are just visiting, make sure to show up to the tailgate. Our only regret was not showing up earlier.

The line to get in was short and efficient. Once we were inside, we realized our mistake. The food and drink options



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

Seattle native and diehard Seahawks fan Audrey Elwood and her father visited Paycor Stadium for the first time to watch the Week Six thriller that saw the Bengals prevail 17-14.

were limited and expensive. It was \$17 for an underserved small drink, and options for food are restricted to a Pepsi Grab-n-Go, Skyline Chili stand and Wings-n-Rings as far as name-brand eats. Food at Paycor Stadium, in comparison to the Cincinnati Reds' Great American Ball Park and its baseball cap full of nachos, was sad and underwhelming. Your best bet is getting some Condado tacos at the tailgate.

The gameday atmosphere of the stadium was fantastic. Paycor Stadium is huge, with a little more than 66,000 seats and 144 suites. However, it never felt overwhelming, and there was comfort in the big crowd. I was sitting on the away side, so there was a higher amount of Seahawks fans than there would normally be.

While sometimes you can feel isolated from the environment when you are the opposing team, I never felt that way in Paycor.

The traditions within The Jungle were very endearing. It was shocking that there is a whole song that accompanies the "Who Dey!" chant, which the whole stadium would erupt in after every touchdown.

Alongside the chant, it was Breast Cancer Awareness Night, and during halftime, there was a heartwarming ringing of the bells for cancer survivors. It added some gravity and weight to the game, while keeping the energy up.

As the game was winding down, the stadium became tense. Within the fourth quarter, Bengals safety Cam Tay-

lor-Britt intercepted a Geno Smith pass, Bengal Evan McPherson hit a 47-yard field goal and the Bengals defense stymied the Seahawks twice with their backs less than ten yards from the end zone. In the last minute and a half, the Seahawks advanced from the Bengals 50 to the nine. All of those cuddly Bengals fans became vicious, and the mood shifted toward ferocity.

A Bengals game is a must-do for anyone new to the area, or anyone paying a weekend visit to the Queen City. The festivities within the stadium were more fun than the game itself. While I will forever be biased to the Seahawks' 68,740 -seat Lumen Field, Paycor Stadium is a great stand-in just 11 minutes from Xavier's campus.

Victories on the Parkway

October 4 - October 18, 2023

#19 Women's Soccer collected wins over Connecticut in Storrs and St. Johns at Corcoran on Senior Day. The Musketeers can win the Big East outright should they prevail in their final three matches.

Men's Soccer defended Corcoran with a win over Marquette and draw with third-ranked Akron on Senior Day

Junior Trevor Nolan recorded the tenth-fastest 8K time in school history and crossed the finish line first at Bowling Green's Falcon Invite, earning him the honor of Big East Athlete of the Week.

Sophomore Jamie Klavon placed fifth in the Falcon Invite Women's 6K, clenching the tenth-fastest time in Xavier history for the event.

Men's swimming outscored Youngstown State and Denison to top the podium at the Akron Zips Classic.

Taking a Mad Look into *Gad's Book*

Two readers offer their perspective on the new novel by XU's Dr. Conner Bassett

Gad's Book is a Sad Book

BY KYRA HUDSON
Staff Writer

Gad's Book, written and published by Xavier's own Dr. Conner Dylan Bassett, details the occurrences of a nameless narrator who is an aspiring author and encounters an eclectic group of passionate yet performative activists while living in modern-day Berkeley, California.

Having access to the narrator's constant inner thoughts and feelings when interacting with his aggressively confident and ambitious friends, Bassett carefully captures the nuance of the human experience and the awkwardness that accompanies constantly being stuck in our own heads.

Additionally, he highlights the reality that many people never attempt to better themselves or hold themselves accountable for the mistakes

they make through the character's actions in this book. However, my suspicion with this novel is that there is no real purpose, lesson to be learned, or general statement that Bassett is trying to convey to his readers.

I had the opportunity to meet with Bassett to ask him about what he wanted his audience to gain from reading his novel, to which he responded, "I want them to have an experience." This was not a great experience.

While *Gad's Book* fits the qualities of the absurdist fiction genre, I found the intolerable characters, their pointless journeys and an overall lack of narrative direction throughout the entire book to be more unfortunate rather than an interesting experimental choice.

There are people who do enjoy this genre of novels. I am not one of them. I like narrative direction with my books, but to each their own.



Newswire photo courtesy of Griffin Brammer

Gad Cooks in *Gad's Book*

BY MARTY DUBECKY
Multimedia Managing Editor

Sex. Poop. Antifa. California. Bassett's debut novel *Gad's Book* covers it all, and I didn't enjoy reading any of it. It wasn't the cozy, autumn book I was looking for, but it wasn't supposed to be a peaceful and enjoyable book. *Gad's Book* paints a scathing satire about a young person's life in the modern world — particularly the Bay Area.

Good satire is supposed to make you feel uneasy. It is supposed to depict an uncanny portrait filled with anxiety. Reading *Gad's Book* was like one big panic attack. The book wasn't a fun read because it wasn't meant to be.

Of course, this isn't the kind of book everyone wants to read all the time, but it is one of those books that is important to read at some point,

and Bassett helps the reader out with his prose and style.

While reading like a panic attack, the novel is also like a never-ending punch to the face. Bassett uses quick, punchy sentences to drive home his continual satire. Bassett's unique voice and narration make *Gad's Book* challenging but continually interesting and immersive. If you haven't been to the Bay Area before reading, you will feel as if you have after you're done.

As always with satire, sometimes the messages and views from the author can become muddled. Many readers might come away from the novel convinced they don't like the main character or Bassett himself. But satires and novels aren't always supposed to be clear, concise or agreeable. *Gad's Book* will challenge you because a good read is supposed to bring up hard emotions. *Gad's Book* does exactly that.

Ahsoka Falls Just Short of Being Jedi Master-ful

BY JOSÉ MARÍA GÁMEZ-LAMADRID
Staff Writer

Ever since Disney+ emerged in 2019, audiences have received a steady drip-feed of *Star Wars* television, ranging from seasons of uncharted territory to limited series focusing on the familiar. The most recent entry in the *Star Wars* library, simply titled *Ahsoka*, dabbles in a bit of both.

The show centers on former Jedi Ahsoka Tano (Rosario Dawson) as she attempts to recruit her former padawan Sabine Wren (Natasha Liu Bordizzo) and fellow rebel Hera Syndulla (Mary Elizabeth Winstead) in a quest to prevent the return of the Empire's master tactician Grand Admiral Thrawn (Lars Mikkelsen), a return that would spell certain doom for the burgeoning New Republic.

Did you get lost reading

that? I wouldn't blame you. Even though the show advertises itself as a stand-alone series, viewers who only follow the live action productions might be familiar with Ahsoka. However, those who stick to the movies would be lost entirely.

Spanning eight episodes, the show picks up on a loose thread mentioned in the second season of *The Mandalorian*, which occurs immediately after the epilogue of the *Star Wars: Rebels* series finale (with its cast of characters as deuteragonists). It follows the padawan of Anakin Skywalker, a character whose existence is unfamiliar to those that haven't watched seven seasons of *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* and its animated movie. Even though the pilot episode flashes a short opening crawl to get viewers up to speed, the show is so deeply entrenched in decades-worth of continuity that is almost

impossible to follow for those that aren't up to speed with everything *Star Wars*-related.

However, for those that do enjoy everything *Star Wars*, *Ahsoka* is a rewarding adventure featuring familiar characters in unfamiliar situations. While the first half of the show is mostly concerned with tying up loose ends regarding Ahsoka's character arc from *The Clone Wars* and *Rebels*, the second ventures more into the fantastical side of "space fantasy", a rare treat for *Star Wars* productions.

Ahsoka challenges the franchise's view on the Force that it has maintained for over 40 years, transitioning it from a powerset monopolized by the Jedi Order back into a state of being that, given enough training, anyone can tap into — a philosophy reflective of George Lucas's beliefs from *A New Hope*.

Sabine Wren, a character that has been portrayed as unresponsive to the Force, is trained by Ahsoka and wields it skillfully by the show's finale, portrayed similarly to how a person can pick up martial arts or study religion. It's a beautifully mythical approach to the Force and leans more into the fairy tale aspect of the saga.

Ahsoka crackles with ambition, but the live action format hinders its potential. Writer and director Dave Filoni has traditionally worked in animation and should've stuck with that. The acting is wooden, and it's rare to see the characters express any sort of emotion besides their constant stoicism, which makes for dull dialogue.

The action is lacking. Un-



BY KYRA HUDSON
Staff Writer

- Jada Pinkett Smith revealed she and Will Smith have been separated for seven years (Oct. 11).
- Pete Davidson and Ice Spice performed at the Season 49 premiere of *Saturday Night Live* (Oct. 14).
- Taylor Swift's *Eras Tour* movie opened with a record-breaking \$120 million globally (Oct. 15).
- Icelandic singer Björk announced a song collaboration with Rosalia entitled "Oral" (Oct. 16).
- Disney celebrated its 100-year anniversary (Oct. 16).



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

imaginative shots and camera angles suck the energy out of duels that were present in Filoni's prior work. Our heroes search for Thrawn in a brand new galaxy, but the planet he resides on has more in common with a Scottish countryside instead of anything alien, a consequence of Lucasfilm's overreliance on StageCraft technology, which eats up most of the show's budget. It becomes painfully obvious when actors are working on a stage of LED panels instead of a traditional

set, breaking immersion that could've been maintained had this been an animated feature.

Despite its faults, *Ahsoka* is a respectable debut into live action for Filoni, a crescendo that he's been carefully developing since Ahsoka's debut into the *Star Wars* mythos almost two decades ago in *The Clone Wars*.

It stands as one of the more enjoyable entries in the Disney+ library. With a refreshing twist on old ideas, it's exciting to imagine where the saga can go next.

Get Campy This Halloween Season

BY DYLAN PAULSON
Newswire Intern

The time is upon us. As the air gets colder and the scent of pumpkin spice lattes starts to fill the air, cobwebs start to come out and ghosts start to hang from house windows.

Spooky season is in its day-break hours, and with that comes the desire to watch as many horror movies as possible. But maybe you're a little different and you love the vibes of the Halloween season but are not a big fan of the modern day jump scare horror film.

Too often we spend our time shooting for the high budget horror films, and some lower-budget horror films get lost in the madness.

Well fear not, reader, because I have the perfect selection of horror movies for you. Watch if you dare.

#1. *Llamageddon*

Llamageddon (2015) is a thrilling tale about a llama from space who crash lands on earth and disrupts a group of college kids out on a farm cabin in the middle of nowhere, drinking and smoking as college kids do.

If that doesn't sell the film to you, then perhaps you'd like to know that this movie contains some intense action. The space llama shoots lasers out of its eyes, and there is plenty of gore in the form of space llamas falling victim to assorted farm equipment. If that wasn't scary enough, then would a man-llama laying an egg for an excruciating five minutes meet your spookiness criteria?

Llamageddon is a generational movie, but its glory gets swept under the rug by all these modern films with

"good effects" and "story arcs."

Truly, truly devastating.

#2. *Thankskilling*

So maybe space llamas and man-llamas laying eggs just don't quite catch your fancy.

Then consider, if you will, the hit movie *Thankskilling* (2007).

Thankskilling is a movie that you'll find your eyes glued to as you witness a group of college students driving out for a camping trip during their Thanksgiving break with plans to drink and have as much sex as humanly possible.

However, those plans are tragically interrupted by a demon turkey, who only appears once every so many Thanksgivings because of a curse laid on the land by a woman chased by that very same tur-

key at the original Thanksgiving.

This terrifying turkey tale follows the travesty of these college kids as they desperately try to survive with the turkey from hell chasing them down. If that doesn't scream peak horror movie material, then I'm not quite sure what does.

#3. *The VelociPastor*

Now, if laser-eyed llamas and turkeys from hell don't meet your standards for what you would consider a "good horror movie" then frankly, I wonder if there is any horror movie that could meet your standards.

But fear not, because if those first two movies didn't stick with you, then I guarantee that this last one will.

Imagine for me a horror movie that has everything a

person could want: dinosaurs, ninjas, prostitutes, priests and a diabolical plot to force the world into Christian help groups. Sounds like the description of the perfect horror movie, does it not?

Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you *The VelociPastor* (2017).

The film is an account of one Father Doug's self-discovery journey-turned-quest to save the world from diabolical Chinese ninjas, which leads him to find unlikely love with a prostitute despite the disapproval of his mentor, a Vietnam war veteran turned Catholic priest.

And no, none of that was exaggerated or invented.

The VelociPastor is one of the greatest movies ever conceived in the history of mankind, and yet no one has heard of it.

Truly despicable.



Newswire photo courtesy of Griffin Brammer

Drake Goes From the Underdog to *For All the Dogs*

BY MADYSEN SUTTON
Guest Writer

To be honest, I wasn't a fan of Drake for the longest time. I always knew him as the guy who dated Rihanna. I recognized his popular songs like "Hotline Bling" and "God's Plan," but other than that, he wasn't on my radar. It wasn't until my senior year in high school, when my best friend made me listen to his songs, that I started to like him. So when his new album *For All the Dogs* came out, I was excited to hear it.

Drake announced that he wrote a poetry book called, *Titles Ruin Everything*. To promote it, he took out ads in major newspapers and included a QR code that led to another announcement: "I made an album to go with the book. They say they miss the old Drake, girl, don't tempt me. FOR ALL THE DOGS." The line "old Drake" is a reference to one of his earlier songs, "Headlines," back when Drake was seen as an underdog.

Now, however, he's top dog, according to the message of

his album.

Some of the songs made me feel like Drake was in his eras, taking a page out of Taylor Swift's book. He is in his soft girl era with "Amen," which has such a good play on words, and "7969 Santa," which is a slower song for Drake. Redemption era after a breakup with songs like "Virginia Beach" and "Fear of Heights." However, he's also in his lover era with the song "Another Late Night (feat. Lil Yachty)."

However, there were a few songs that I just didn't vibe with such as "Away From Home," "Drew A Picasso" and "Polar Opposites."

On the other hand, who doesn't love a good song that makes walking to and from class a bit more enjoyable? I feel like "Calling For You (feat. 21 Savage)" and "What Would Plato Do" are great songs to add to your playlist.

Furthermore, "Tried Our Best" is a great song to add to your study playlist. It gives chill vibes and is a good song to bob your head to when you're jotting down notes or writing

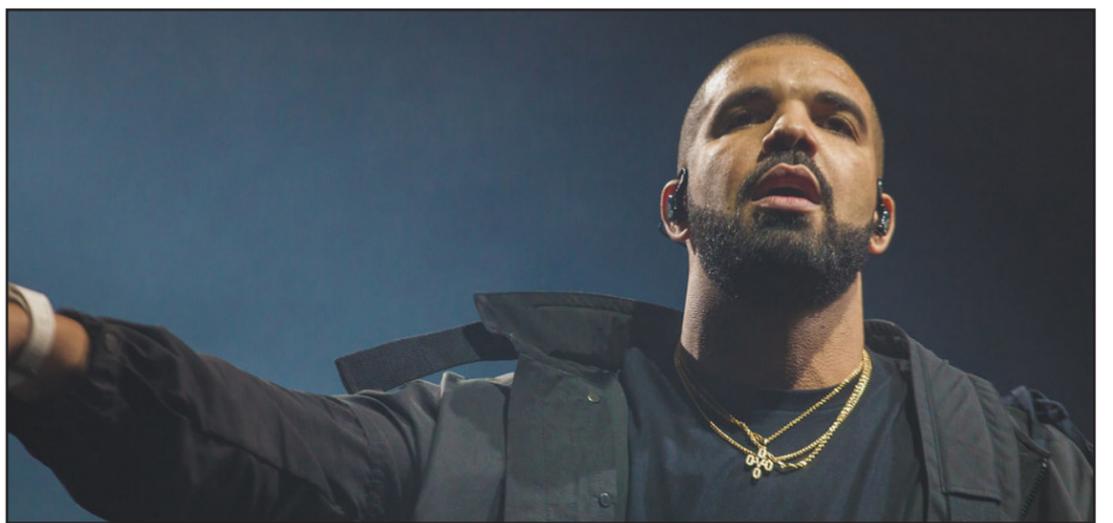


Photo courtesy of flickr.com

in your planner. Other songs to add are "Members Only (feat. PARTYNEXTDOOR)," "8am in Charlotte" with its gospel tones and "BBL Love." "IDGAF (feat. Yeat)" and "First Person Shooter (feat. J Cole)" are personally some of my favorites. They are great songs for when it's leg day at the gym and you need that extra push. These songs get you energized with a bass drop.

I love a good late night drive, and some of these songs are just perfect for that. "Daylight" has a good bass

that makes your mirrors vibrate and the catchy lyrics just add to the melody. "Slime You Out (feat. SZA)" is my absolute favorite song on the album. The bass makes me want to drive around at night and sing SZA's lyrics.

"Screw the World (Interlude)" has an amazing bass that vibrates the whole car and is perfect for when you want to drown out all your sorrows.

"Bahamas Promise" is definitely a song about Hailey Bieber and her relationship

with Drake in 2016. There's also some major shade thrown at Justin Bieber, Hailey's current husband. The last two songs, "Gently (feat. Bad Bunny)" and "Rich Baby Daddy (feat. Sexyy Red and SZA)" are club songs you can throw it back to. Sexyy Red and SZA carried it for sure.

Just for the fact that Drake's five-year-old son drew the cover, I'd give *For All the Dogs* a 10/10. All that aside though, the seriously talented features and addictive beats make this an 8/10.



Aries: Spooky season is here. The spookiest part is that it's cuffing season.



Taurus: Honestly, skip the 8:30a.m. class tomorrow. You need a second to rest.



Gemini: If your lips are chapped, try one of the Chapstick Christmas lip scrubs. They taste good.



Cancer: If your plan is to turn that assignment in late, check first to see when it locks.



Leo: Drink more water. The air is drying up, and you keep telling everyone you have bags under your eyes.



Virgo: Please be nice to the SGA candidates. They're trying their best.



Libra: If you feel like everyone hates you, shower. If you hate yourself, sleep.



Scorpio: Would you rather get pregnant or drafted? Start planning for WWII with the girls!



Sagittarius: It's okay that you only have 13 dining dollars left. Get the Starbies anyway.



Capricorn: Finance is not the end of the world. Keep chugging on the Excel sheet, bestie.



Aquarius: You are sexy, never forget.



Pisces: You smell like your sign: stanky fishy, stanky fishy.



BARBIE BETTER WATCH OUT FOR THE SLEEPING FAT BEAR!



COMIC BY BRIANA DUNN

Bears of Xavier

BY HANNAH KREMER, STAFF WRITER

For the lovers of bears and all of their chubby glory, two weeks ago was full of competition and exhilaration. Katmai National Park hosted an annual contest where the public can watch the bears on a livestream and vote in a bracket-style tournament to determine which has caught the most fish and is the chunkiest of the 12 presented. As we find ourselves in the heart of our midterm season, let us examine the qualities of these fierce competitors and ask ourselves, "What traits might be observed in Xavier's own fat bear competition?"

Bear 747: Bear 747 is known for his sloth-like attitude, frequently taking naps by the bank of the river instead of fishing for his next meal. This bear is a tribute to all the Musketeers out there whose dorm room floors rarely see the light of day. This type of student is shamelessly pragmatic in the way they choose to only go to the classes that apply to their major and then skip the rest. They are also practically best friends with their favorite professors. Do not keep these people from getting their waffle fries in the Caf. They will claw you.

Chunk the Runner-Up: Chunk is a wildly friendly bear, who frequently plays with the others. When it is time to get food, he patiently waits for the other bears to finish and then consumes their scraps. People like Chunk are making the most of their college experience, and they are about to peak. They seem to know everyone they walk past on the Academic Mall and in the Caf. All those naps they take between classes are starting to show because their happiness is contagious. Chunks are content with scavenging for leftovers but always come in peace. Their confidence still shows in little ways, especially in their excessive cheering at basketball games.

Grazer, the Winning Bear: Grazer is a strong-willed former mama bear who has by far the most salmon catches of the bunch. Imagine the classmate you fear will drop dead if they pull one more all-nighter and always has their nose buried in a textbook. There is no time to hibernate for these bears. More than this, they show fierce loyalty to their friends and are the mothers of the friend group. They are always there for you even during your most stressful days. All in all, Grazers are a force to be reckoned with, especially when they are barreling past you just trying to be 10 minutes early to their biology lab.

Whether you identify with one of these bears or a little from all of them, always take a cue from Mother Nature: Stay fat and fierce in our vast wilderness.